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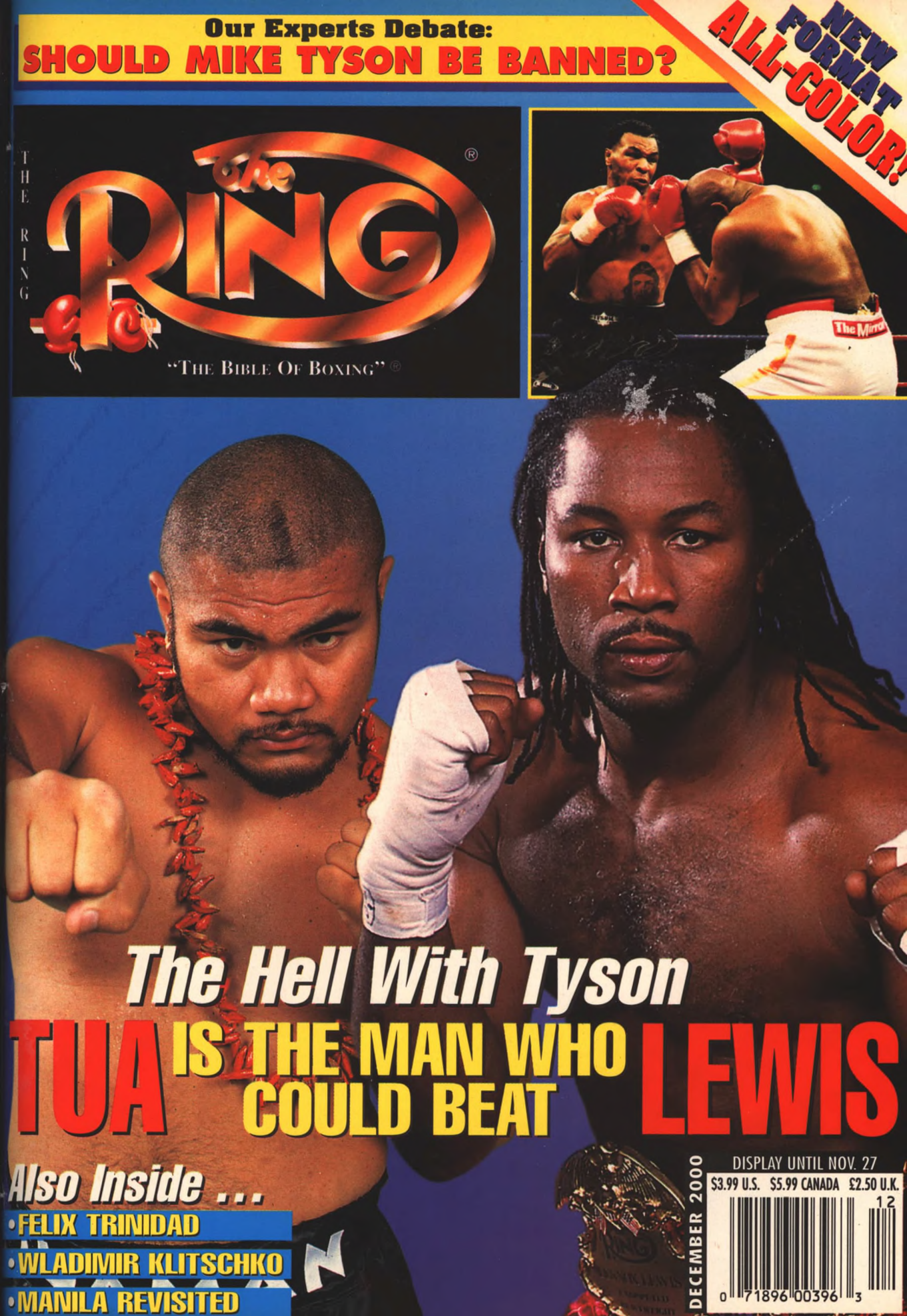
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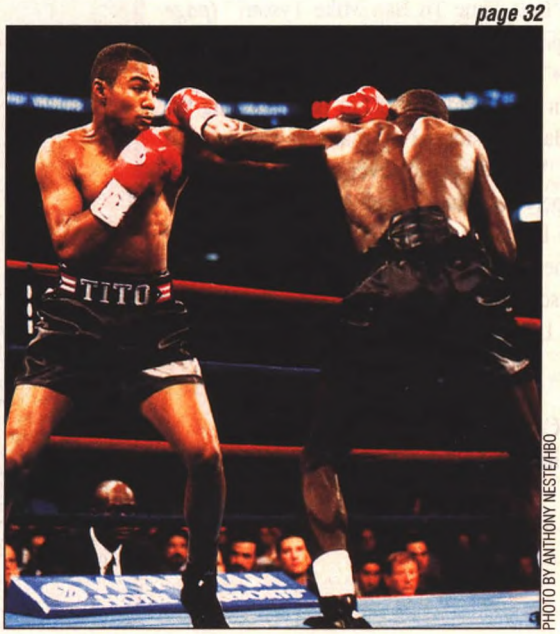

PHOTO BY ANTHONY NESTE/HBO

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Tyson-Francis by John Gichigi/Allsport

Cover Design:
Joe Kalman

RINGSIDE

WELCOME TO A NEW ERA

Sometimes dreams do come true, and the magazine you're reading is the realization of a dream the publisher and editors have shared for a long time—a vibrant full-color version of THE RING printed on glossy paper. Maybe it's been your dream, too.

Throughout the publication's 78-year history, THE RING's editorial content has been the best in the business, featuring the finest boxing writers and photographers in the world. Now their work will be enhanced by a beautiful new format, one that will bring the colorful world of the Sweet Science to life as never before.

The switch to a high-quality paper is also great news for collectors and historians, as the precious memories between the covers will be much easier to preserve for years to come. Also, readers will now be able to see THE RING's archive of more than a million vintage boxing photographs reproduced in all their original brilliance.

The ability to adapt has always been the secret of survival, and the changes you see in this issue are only the beginning. Future issues will bring even greater improvements, as "The Bible Of Boxing" continues the trailblazing path first trodden by founder Nat Fleischer in 1922. I'm sure if Nat were alive today, he'd be just as excited about THE RING's new look as I am.

***

One of boxing's most contentious issues is whether or not, in the light of his many transgressions, Mike Tyson should be banned. Even though I personally believe that boxing's most notorious bad boy *should* be allowed to continue fighting, there are those on the other side of the debate whose opinions I respect. The best thing to do in such cases is to listen to both points of view and then make up your own mind. To this end, we've asked two of our regular contributors, senior writer William Dettloff and West Coast correspondent Ivan Goldman, to debate the issue, punch/counterpunch style, in a double-barreled feature entitled "Is It Time To Ban Mike Tyson?" *(page 24)*. Readers are encouraged to voice their opinions in "Come Out Writing."

***

Like virtually every sports publication in the world, THE RING is celebrating the 25th anniversary of "The Thrilla In Manila," considered by many as the greatest heavyweight championship fight of all-time. We are not, however, serving up a lukewarm rehash of the apocalyptic third bout between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier. Instead, our Philippines correspondent, Ted Lerner, has literally revisited the site of the famous fight and interviewed many of the local individuals intimately involved in putting together a sporting event that still resonates with the Filipino people a quarter of a century later. Don't miss "25 Years Later ... Manila Still Remembers The Thrilla" *(page 40)*.

Nigel Collins
Editor-in-Chief

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Come Out Writing

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

THE REF GOT IT RIGHT

There is much in the world of boxing that leaves a bad taste in my mouth, and the Roy Jones-Richard Hall fight on HBO is one that continues to do so. Referee Wayne Kelly stopped the fight at the exact moment that it should have been stopped; any time sooner would have been a travesty. I completely disagree with Larry Merchant of HBO and Nigel Collins of THE RING about the timing of the stoppage. Hall displayed a great chin and something most fighters lack these days—*heart*.

Why didn't Hall just quit and take his paycheck home? Because he is a fighter, that's why. Hall earned and deserved every opportunity to go the distance with the pound-for-pound best in the world. Thank you, Roy Jones, Richard Hall, and Wayne Kelly. As for Larry Merchant and Nigel Collins, shame on both of you for second-guessing a perfectly refereed fight.

JOHN NAGLE
Aliquippa, PA

A BOOST FOR BOXING

I am writing to give boxing a pat on the back. What a great year 2000 has been for boxing, with all of its great matchups, like Shane Mosley and Oscar De La Hoya. Mosley showed the world what a first-rate boxer he is. He clearly beat De La Hoya. But let's also give Oscar credit for taking that fight and losing with grace. Finally, boxing got its money's worth.

JAMES HAVDOUGLAS
Palm Coast, FL

Shane Mosley's victory over Oscar De La Hoya was a good thing for boxing, said reader James Havdouglas. The right man was given the decision in a bout that was just one in a string of quality fights in 2000.

OSCAR'S NOT HIMSELF

I once read an article in THE RING (December 1998) where Oscar De La Hoya said, "I'm always in a no-win situation." He's always getting more criticism than credit by the public and boxing associations. But don't get me wrong, what we've seen in his last fights was terrible, also leaving us true Oscar fans to wonder.

I haven't seen Oscar

fight like himself since the first Julio Cesar Chavez fight. If he was to fight like that against Felix Trinidad or Shane Mosley, he would still be undefeated. I feel something is wrong and missing from De La Hoya. He's better than this. I don't think he's training hard enough, physically and mentally.

Oscar, if you want to be like the true all-time greats, you should have enough to go 15 rounds, instead of tiring in the late rounds. Oscar needs to bring in new cornermen. I would like to see Oscar rematch Mosley and Trinidad soon to show them the real Oscar De La Hoya.

I think Oscar grew bored with boxing. Sure, fame and fortune will do that to you, but I would rather see Oscar retire a champion than see him in the movies or singing. Give me something to believe in again.

PAULINO IBARRA
Brighton, CO

RACE AND REALITY

What is the real motivation behind the article "White Hopes And Hard Reality" (August 2000)? Is it an attempt to bolster white pride? If so, there's nothing wrong with that, but let's at least keep it real. Otherwise, discussions concerning race will only reinforce feelings of disgust.

I have to say that Ivan Goldman's assertion that white people will automatically root for an African-American fighter over a white foreigner is an unsubstantiated opinion, to say the least. If patriotism ran so high in this country, the military would not be experiencing recruitment problems. Frankly, I believe this is just another sanctimonious attempt to canonize white people, and to portray them as people who are so enlightened as to be above racial bias. Past and current history suggests otherwise.

However, attempting to sanctify white people in this manner makes no sense. What's wrong with rooting for the guy who looks most like you? Race transcends nationality, and everyone, including white folks, have an affinity to their own kind. If the nationality of the fighters is unknown, you wouldn't be able to tell if the white guy was from Russia or Idaho, or if the black guy was from Uganda or New York. Who would you root for then?

The term "Great White Hope" speaks to white people's desire to see a white heavyweight champion—or any champion for that matter—regardless of what country he's from. But I say again, what's wrong with that?

Since you have dedicated an entire article to white fighters, when is there going to be an article about the contributions of black fighters who have brought a flair to boxing that otherwise wouldn't exist?

BYRON GREEN
Baltimore, MD

RYAN: HBO BUTT MUNCH?

Jeff Ryan's ass-kissing column about HBO ("Boxing's Best Friend," July 2000) made me want to puke. HBO has been pretending to be "journalists" for years, when what they really are is a promoter that doesn't have to answer to any of the commissions. How can Ryan stand that sanctimonious Larry Merchant and Jim "The House Shill" Lampley?

Hot flash to all of you HBO journalists: You're lying to your viewers on a regular basis. Naseem Hamed is not the featherweight champion of the world, as you say. He is the *WBO* featherweight champion of the world, whether you like or not. The same goes for Roy Jones, Floyd Mayweather, Lennox Lewis, and any of the other HBO fighters. If the sanctioning bodies don't exist or if you simply refuse to acknowledge them, then whose champions are you introducing? HBO's? No, they're the IBF's, the WBO's, the WBA's, and the WBC's.

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Columnist Jeff Ryan depicted HBO as objective, but the cable network really is nothing more than a promoter, says reader Richard Colon. Colon describes blow-by-blow guy Jim Lampley as a "house shill."

How come HBO publicly dumped on Don King for years and would have nothing to do with him, but as soon as he had something they wanted (Evander Holyfield and Felix Trinidad), all was forgiven? And how come every time they put on a mismatch, it's everyone's fault but theirs? It's Don King, it's Jose Sulaiman, it's the athletic commissions—everyone except the guys who accepted it, paid for it, and put it on TV. And finally, don't blame anyone but "Boxing's Best Friend" if Lewis-Tyson never happens. They will never allow it to happen, until it can happen on HBO.

Come on, Mr. Ryan. Don't you follow this sport? Wake up and smell the hypocrites.

RICHARD COLON
Miami, FL ■

ROUND ONE

CLOUDY HORIZON AT THE BLUE

On July 20, Philadelphia boxing fans woke up to an alarming front-page story in the *Philadelphia Daily News*, the gist of which was that the Blue Horizon was "on the ropes" and in danger of closing down. But although the fabled fight venue is in a precarious situation, it's certainly not down for the count—not yet anyway.

The city's Department of Licenses and Inspections has cited the building, which was built in 1865, with fire and electrical code violations, but L & I Deputy Director Dominic Verdi said, "nothing has been closed down. We never told [owners Veronica Michaels and Carol Ray] they couldn't have boxing events."

The major complaint came from ESPN2, which was scheduled to broadcast the *Friday Night Fights* from the building on September 22. The cable network had voiced concerns about the safety of the catwalks after its June telecast there, and was leery about returning. This sent J Russell Peltz, ESPN2's boxing consultant and the promoter of the September card, scurrying to try and find a new venue. While he failed to come up with a suitable replacement site, Peltz sounded confident that he would soon be back at the building where he began his career in 1969.

PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

Feeling Blue: The Horizon is in trouble

"I think they are going to get it together," said Peltz. "It's not going to collapse tomorrow."

Although L & I will be satisfied as long as repairs continue, a lot of money will be needed to keep the old building a permanent part of the Philly fight scene. Some $1-million in matching state funds are available to Michaels and Ray, but they've found it impossible to come up with their $1-million because they have been forced to funnel profits back into the building, which has required continual renovations since they purchased it in 1994.

Three days after running its original story, the *Daily News* carried an editorial headlined, "Why We Have To Save The Blue Horizon." There has also been the promise of help from high places.

"We'd better get [Pennsylvania] Governor [Tom] Ridge on that," said Senator John McCain, who attended a Peltz card at the Blue two years ago. "He told me he loves the Blue Horizon. I think maybe he could personally intervene on its behalf."

Local legend Joe Frazier, who said that it would be a "tragedy" if the venerable venue closed, suggested that divine intervention might be necessary.

"It's time to pray, brother. Pray for the Blue."

—Nigel Collins

CORRALES IN CRISIS

Diego Corrales' image, as far as the boxing public is concerned, has always been one of a genuine nice guy, a fighter destined to give the sport a good name. That's why it came as a major shock to the fans and the media when the unbeaten IBF junior lightweight champion was arrested on July 24 in his hometown of Sacramento, California, and charged with three felonies after allegedly administering a brutal beating to his pregnant wife.

Sacramento police were called to Corrales' apartment after neighbors heard Maria Corrales screaming for help from a balcony. An argument between the 22-year-old Corrales and his 97-pound wife began after what a deputy district attorney said was a prank phone call the night before that tricked Corrales into believing his wife was involved with another man. Maria, who was two months pregnant at the time of the incident, suffered a broken jaw, a broken collarbone, two broken ribs, a bruised spine, and swelling on the brain.

The fighter was released on $100,000 bond and was allowed to fly to Las Vegas to train for a September 2 fight with Angel Manfredy. Top Rank promoter Bob Arum said the fight would be held as scheduled because Corrales had not been convicted of a crime. But he is being charged with spousal abuse, assault, and possession of a deadly weapon (a sawed-off shotgun), all of which are felonies. Deputy District Attorney Lori Greene argued that bail be set at $250,000.

"This was an absolutely brutal beating," Greene said in arguing for the stiffer bail to Judge Loren E. McMaster.

Corrales: Domestic violence accusations

Greene said Corrales has a history of spousal abuse, citing two previously unreported incidents of domestic violence against his wife as well as a 1997 conviction in Las Vegas of domestic violence. When McMaster set bail, he ordered the boxer to avoid contact with his wife.

Maria Corrales' baby is expected to survive the attack. Her husband has refused comment on the matter.

—Kevin Iole

GIVING BACK

With so many fighters falling afoul of the law, it's refreshing when one of them does something worthwhile outside of the ring. Such is the case with Roy Jones, who has dug into his own pocket to help needy children.

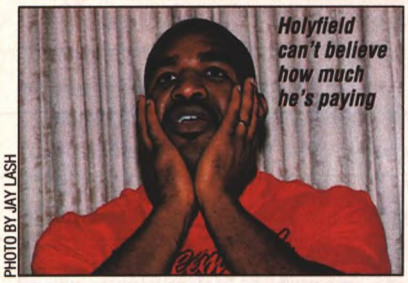
When the undisputed light heavyweight champion defended the title against Eric Harding in New Orleans on September 9, a percentage of Jones' pay-per-view loot was donated to the Muhammad Ali Global Village Champions, a charity that helps feed starving children around the world.

King Jones is sharing the wealth from the Harding fight

"It's not always about money," said Jones. "It's about what you can do for other people."

Of course, if there's one thing all fighters agree on, it's that it is *always* better to give than receive—at least inside the ring.

HOLYFIELD LOSES AGAIN ... AT THE BANK



Holyfield can't believe how much he's paying

PHOTO BY JAY LASH

Being one of Evander Holyfield's ex-wives or out-of-wedlock children has to be among the best gigs going. In mid-July, a California court ordered child-support payments increased from $10,000 to $19,207 per month for Holyfield's seven-year-old daughter, Emani. That adds up to $230,484 a year, far more than the annual income of the vast majority of professional fighters.

Apparently, the little girl will never lack for material wealth. The new monthly payment includes $2,070 for clothing, $3,500 for travel, and $500 for toys (six grand a year for toys!). And even if the court doesn't order another increase in the interim, "The Real Deal" will fork over more than $2.5-million before Emani turns 18.

All of this comes on the heels of Holyfield's March divorce from his second wife, Dr. Janice Holyfield, which also took a big bite out of the three-time former heavyweight champion's fortune, estimated at more than $90-million in court documents.

You don't have to be a genius to figure out why Commander Vander, who will turn 38 on October 19, is still fighting. If the trend continues, Holyfield's best bet, other than abstention, might be to get himself adopted by one of his nine children.

—Nigel Collins

TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
6-30-00	Scott Pemberton KO 9 Glenwood Brown	ESPN2	sm	D	C-	C+
Pemberton pounds Brown into what we hope will be permanent retirement						
6-30-00	Ray Oliveira KO 6 Isaac Cruz	ESPN2	jw	C+	D	C
*Not one of **Friday Night Fights**' better moments; Cruz way outclassed*						
7-7-00	Elvir Muriqi W 6 Dan Sheehan	ESPN2	lh	C-	B-	C-
Muriqi: Great story, great trainer, average fighter						
7-7-00	Alex Bunema D 10 Michael Lerma	ESPN2	jm	C	B+	B
Good, hard scrap between two hard-nosed guys, and for once a draw was the right call						
7-7-00	Angel Vazquez W 12 Max Gomez	ESPN2	f	B-	C	D
How annoying is it to watch a guy with Vazquez' punch dance and jab to a dull win?						
7-14-00	Julian Letterlough KO 7 Demetrius Jenkins	ESPN2	lh	C	B+	A
Best fight yet on **Friday Night Fights**, at least until Campas and Ayala topped them two weeks later						
7-14-00	Chris Johnson W 12 Greg Wright	ESPN2	lh	C+	B+	D
After slow start, Johnson ekes out win in yawner						
7-15-00	Wladimir Klitschko KO 7 Monte Barrett	HBO	h	B	B	C+
Klitschko administers brutal beating; we'd love to see him against top-five guy						
7-15-00	**Lennox Lewis KO 2 Frans Botha**	**HBO**	**WBC/IBF h**	**A+**	**C-**	**B+**
Oh, so this is the Lewis Emanuel Steward has been talking about						
7-16-00	Adan Vargas W 12 Mauricio Pastrana	FOXSN	b	A-	A	B
Good fight, but Pastrana too small to fight at 118						
7-21-00	Rhoshii Wells W 10 Anthony Jones	ESPN2	m	C+	B+	C
Solid win for rapidly improving Wells; veteran Jones always a step behind						
7-21-00	Golden Johnson W 12 Teddy Reid	ESPN2	jm	B-	A-	B-
Johnson back on track with hard-fought win over hard-hitting Reid						
7-21-00	Mount Whitaker W Disq. 1 David Dixon	Show	h	C-	D	D
Carnera, er, Whitaker wins when Dixon pulls a Golota						
7-21-00	David Tua KO 3 Robert Daniels	Show	h	A	F	D
Fascinating: Vegas wouldn't sanction Tszyu-Chavez, but this was okay						
7-22-00	**Felix Trinidad KO 3 Mamadou Thiam**	**HBO**	**WBA jm**	**A**	**D-**	**B**
"Tito" takes care of business with overmatched mandatory; bring on Vargas!						
7-28-00	Yory Boy Campas KO 8 Tony Ayala	ESPN2	m	B+	A	A+
Campas breaks down Ayala in stirring slugfest; Ayala's no George Foreman						
7-29-00	Hector Camacho Jr. Tech. Win 6 Philip Holiday	Show	jw	B+	B	D-
When Camacho arrived on a plastic horse, we started rooting hard for Holiday						
7-29-00	**Kostya Tszyu KO 6 Julio Cesar Chavez**	**Show**	**WBC jw**	**A**	**F**	**C**
You catch Chavez apologizing to Don King? Tszyu must hit even harder than we thought						
8-4-00	Hasim Rahman KO 7 Frankie Swindell	ESPN2	h	B-	D+	C-
Swindell always looks like he hasn't trained, but this time he fought like it too						
8-5-00	**Bones Adams KO 6 Andres Fernandez**	**HBO**	**WBA jf**	**A-**	**C**	**B+**
Adams survives shaky moment or two before cutting Fernandez to ribbons						
8-5-00	**Eric Morel W 12 Sornpichai Pisnurachank**	**HBO**	**WBA fl**	**A**	**A-**	**B+**
Morel superb in title win, and spelling-challenged fight writers everywhere rejoice						
8-5-00	Juan Lazcano W 10 Jesse James Leija	Show	l	B	A-	B
Close fight, but Leija deserved it; Steve Weisfeld's Eugenia Williams impression dead-on						
8-5-00	**Zab Judah KO 4 Terronn Millett**	**Show**	**IBF jw**	**A**	**B+**	**B+**
Even if stoppage was premature, Judah proves he's sole claimant to IBF belt						

Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(World title fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime; FOXSN—Fox SportsNet; Uni—Univision; Tel—Telemundo

LIVELY LENNOX

If Lennox Lewis is successful in his scheduled November title defense against David Tua, then the WBC/IBF champion, who earlier this year turned away Michael Grant and Frans Botha, will become the first heavyweight champ to successfully defend the title three or more times in a calendar year since Mike Tyson made four defenses in 1987. Here's a look at heavyweight champs who successfully defended the title four or more times in a calendar year.

FIGHTER	YEAR	NUMBER OF DEFENSES	RESULTS
Mike Tyson	1987	4	W 12 Bonecrusher Smith; KO 6 Pinklon Thomas; W 12 Tony Tucker; KO 7 Tyrell Biggs
Larry Holmes	1980	4	KO 6 Lorenzo Zanon; KO 8 Leroy Jones; KO 7 Scott LeDoux; KO 11 Muhammad Ali
Muhammad Ali	1976	4	KO 5 Jean Pierre Coopman; W 15 Jimmy Young; KO 5 Richard Dunn; W 15 Ken Norton
Muhammad Ali	1975	4	KO 15 Chuck Wepner; KO 11 Ron Lyle; W 15 Joe Bugner; KO 14 Joe Frazier
Muhammad Ali	1966	5	W 15 George Chuvalo; KO 6 Henry Cooper; KO 3 Brian London; KO 12 Karl Mildenberger; KO 3 Cleveland Williams
Joe Louis	1941	7	KO 5 Clarence Burman; KO 2 Gus Dorazio; KO 13 Abe Simon; KO 9 Tony Musto; W Disq. 7 Buddy Baer; KO 13 Billy Conn; KO 6 Lou Nova
Joe Louis	1940	4	W 15 Arturo Godoy; KO 2 Johnny Paychek; KO 8 Arturo Godoy; KO 6 Al McCoy
Joe Louis	1939	4	KO 1 John Henry Lewis; KO 1 Jack Roper; KO 4 Tony Galento; KO 11 Bob Pastor
Tommy Burns	1908	6	KO 4 Jack Palmer; KO 1 Jem Roche; KO 5 Jewey Smith; KO 8 Bill Squires; KO 13 Bill Squires; KO 6 Bill Lang

—Compiled by Joe Santoliquito

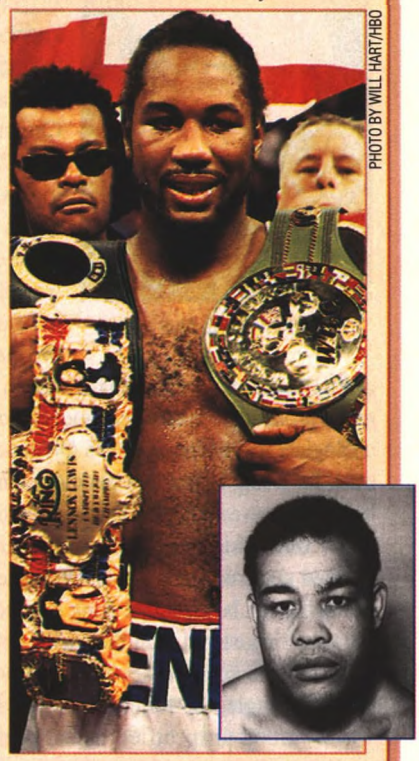


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Lewis is the most active champ in years, but Louis (inset) was the busiest of all

HISSED OFF HOLMES

Larry Holmes made his living engaging in fair fights. They weren't always evenly matched contests, as guys like Scott Frank and Marvis Frazier can attest, but they were technically fair, with both competitors having nothing more than two gloved fists at their disposal. So Holmes knows an unfair fight when he sees one, and that's part of the reason the former heavyweight champ is so agitated with the leniency of the charges against a pair of men who attacked his son, Larry Jr., and two friends with a baseball bat in Nazareth, Pennsylvania.

Holmes: Justice isn't being served

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

"If I threw a punch, it would be assault with a deadly weapon," the elder Holmes told the *Associated Press* two days after the July 15 incident. "Why can't it be assault with a deadly weapon when you swing a bat?"

Nazareth police apparently didn't consider the weapon to be deadly enough, charging 18-year-old Nickoles Lambert with aggravated assault, simple assault, and reckless endangerment, while charging Charles Kaufmann, 52, with simple assault and disorderly conduct. Holmes Jr. and friends Jason Black and Sean Burgio were reportedly involved in a fight with Lambert and an unspecified number of other young men, including Kaufmann's son. When Kaufmann drove by and saw the scuffle going on, he allegedly got out of his car with an aluminum baseball bat and hit Holmes Jr. in the arm. Lambert then allegedly picked up the bat and hit both Black and Burgio in the head with it. Both of Holmes' friends were hospitalized, with Black sustaining hearing loss.

"They're lucky I didn't find them because I'd probably be in jail," said "The Easton Assassin" of his son's assailants.

—Eric Raskin

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Ingle: Won his libel suit

Tragic news from Indonesia: Flyweight **Dipo Saloko**, who slipped into a coma after suffering a seventh-round knockout loss to **Rio Saragih** in mid-June, died in the intensive care unit of the Indonesian Christian University hospital on July 2 at the age of 30. This marks the first reported ring death of the year 2000 ... Former WBA super welterweight champ **David Reid** got off fairly easy following the physical altercation with his girlfriend that we reported last issue in "Round One." Reid was given probation for one year and was ordered to undergo a psychological evaluation. The '96 Olympic gold medalist is still on track for a ring return as a middleweight this fall ... The state of New York revealed plans in mid-July to investigate whether promoter **Don King** secretly lobbied against a bill that could have blocked construction of an Indian-owned casino in the Catskills. Lobbying can be legal, but King is in potential hot water because he wasn't registered with the state Lobbying Commission at the time that he phoned several Democratic assemblymen ... **Brendan Ingle**, the former trainer of **Prince Naseem Hamed**, was awarded unspecified damages in winning his libel suit against the BBC in mid-July. Ingle sued over a BBC interview in which Hamed said he had been "manipulated and exploited" during his career ... Former 122- and 126-pound champion **Antonio Cermeno** was jailed in Caracas, Venezuela, in late-June in connection with a homicide at a local nightclub, only to be cleared and released two weeks later. Cermeno admitted to firing a shot in the air at the crime scene, but ballistics tests revealed that the fighter's gun wasn't the murder weapon ... Former welterweight champion **Pipino Cuevas** was among 24 employees of former Mexico City mayor **Oscar Espinosa** arrested in mid-July on corruption charges, a victim of new President **Vicente Fox's** assault on the dubious PRI political party ... It seemed that **Johnny Tapia** was merely a victim in the June 27 road rage incident we reported last month, but as it turns out, the two-division former champ is also being charged with assault. After being shot at by another motorist, Tapia followed the man to get his license plate number, and, according to Tapia's attorney, **Billy Blackburn**, the assault charge appears to have something to do with whatever ensued when Tapia chased him down ... A strange ordeal came to an end in late-July when a Bronx, New York, man by the name of **Alberto Lugo** was convicted on 10 different criminal counts, including three counts of rape. This conviction cleared the name of former middleweight contender **Alex Ramos**, whose name and identity Lugo had been using for nearly 20 years to lure victims to hotel rooms.

Cermeno: Cleared in murder case

THE PUNCHLINES

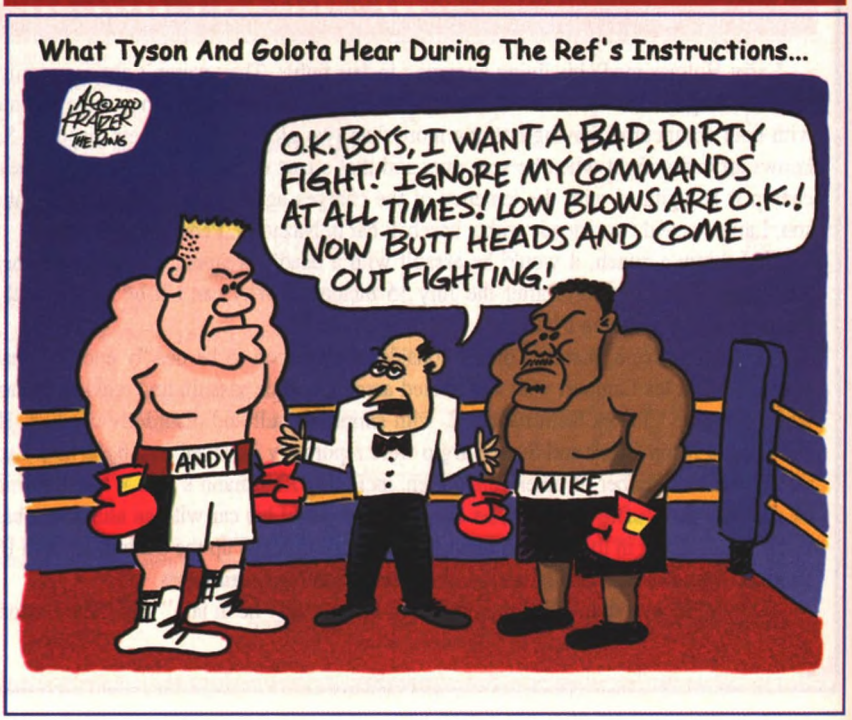
"If I can't beat David Tua, I can't cook a burger on my grill."

—Supposedly retired heavyweight George Foreman

"I think Showtime's going to get some bad ratings because no one can understand Jack doo-doo when Zab talks because he has too much platinum in his mouth ... By the time you decipher or break down what he's saying, Tszyu's fight will be over."

—Terronn Millett, on Showtime's plans to have Zab Judah provide on-air analysis for the Kostya Tszyu-Julio Cesar Chavez fight

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



"THE BIBLE OF BOXING"

RATINGS ANALYSIS

(For period ended August 6, 2000)

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **SHANE MOSLEY** Welterweight
2. **ROY JONES** Light Heavyweight
3. **FELIX TRINIDAD** Junior Middleweight
4. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA** Welterweight
5. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER** Junior Lightweight
6. **NASEEM HAMED** Featherweight
7. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Middleweight
8. **ERIK MORALES** Junior Featherweight
9. **FERNANDO VARGAS** Junior Middleweight
10. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA** Junior Featherweight

HEAVYWEIGHTS: No changes, but Lennox Lewis reinforced his number-one position with a crushing second-round kayo of Frans Botha.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: No changes.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: Michael Nunn (fifth last issue) hasn't fought since May 9, 1999, and is dropped for inactivity. Nunn's departure allows David Telesco (sixth last issue) and Montell Griffin (formerly seventh) to move up one place each to fifth and sixth, respectively. Previously unranked Chris Johnson enters at number seven on the strength of his close decision over Greg Wright, who remains at number nine.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No changes.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: WBA boss Felix Trinidad upholds his number-one rating with a third-round TKO of mandatory challenger Mamadou Thiam. Former IBF champion Yory Boy Campas returns to the ratings at number nine following his TKO of Tony Ayala. Tony Marshall (ninth last issue) slips to 10th place after losing a decision to WBC champion Francisco Castillejo, who stays at number five. Keith Mullings (10th last issue) hasn't fought since August '99 and exits due to inactivity.

WELTERWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: IBF champion Zab Judah (fourth last issue) moves up to second thanks to his fourth-round knockout of Terronn Millett, who falls from third to sixth. Ener Julio debuts at fourth after upsetting previously unbeaten Randall Bailey, who hangs on to fifth place due to the close nature of their bout. WBA titlist Sharmba Mitchell, dormant since November '99, slides from second to third to accommodate Judah's advancement. Teddy Reid (10th last issue) departs due to his points loss to journeyman Golden Johnson.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: Two-time former champ James Leija (ninth last issue) is gone after his controversial decision loss to Juan Lazcano (still unranked). John-John Molina moves up from 10th to ninth, and Ben Tackie is back aboard at the 10th position.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: Busy Jesus Chavez racks up another kayo and advances from eighth to seventh. Yong Soo Choi, who has been idle, falls from seventh to eighth.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: No changes.

BANTAMWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: New IBF champion Felix Machado (10th last issue) ascends to number four due to his title-winning decision over Julio Gamboa. Eric Morel (eighth last issue) defects to the 112-pound division, making room for Adonis Rivas, who is back at number 10.

FLYWEIGHTS: Morel jets to the top of the list by winning the WBA title from Sornpichai Pisnurachank, who falls from first to fourth after losing a 12-round decision. Leo Gamez (sixth last issue) has moved up to 115 pounds and is gone from the flyweight rankings.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: No changes.

STRAWWEIGHTS: No changes.

POUND-FOR-POUND: No changes. ■

THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended August 6, 2000

PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

Zab Judah shot up to number two at junior welter by trouncing Terronn Millett

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **LENNOX LEWIS** England *37-1-1 (WBC/IBF Champ)*
2. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** Fairburn, GA *36-4-1*
3. **DAVID TUA** New Zealand *37-1*
4. **OLEG MASKAEV** Staten Island, NY *20-2*
5. **MIKE TYSON** Catskill, NY *48-3*
6. **MICHAEL GRANT** Norristown, PA *31-1*
7. **CHRIS BYRD** Flint, MI *31-1*
8. **ANDREW GOLOTA** Chicago, IL *36-4*
9. **HASIM RAHMAN** Baltimore, MD *34-2*
10. **DAVID IZON** Pensacola, FL *26-3*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **FELIX TRINIDAD** Puerto Rico *38-0 (WBA Champ)*
2. **FERNANDO VARGAS** Oxnard, CA *19-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **DAVID REID** Philadelphia, PA *14-1*
4. **IKE QUARTEY** Ghana *34-2-1*
5. **FRANCISCO CASTILLEJO** Spain *50-4 (WBC Champ)*
6. **HARRY SIMON** Namibia *19-0*
7. **WINKY WRIGHT** St. Petersburg, FL *39-3*
8. **BRONCO McKART** Monroe, MI *42-2*
9. **YORY BOY CAMPAS** Mexico *75-4*
10. **TONY MARSHALL** Albany, NY *34-8-6*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **NASEEM HAMED** England *34-0*
2. **FRED NORWOOD** St. Louis, MO *37-0-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **PAUL INGLE** England *23-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **GUTY ESPADAS** Mexico *33-2 (WBC Champ)*
5. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ** Mexico *31-2*
6. **MANUEL MEDINA** Mexico *57-11*
7. **MBULELO BOTILE** South Africa *26-1*
8. **JUAN CARLOS RAMIREZ** Mexico *20-2*
9. **ANGEL VAZQUEZ** Hartford, CT *21-0*
10. **CASSIUS BALOYI** South Africa *23-0*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA** Mexico *50-3*
2. **ERIK MORALES** Mexico *37-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **BONES ADAMS** Henderson, KY *40-3-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. **LEHLO LEDWABA** South Africa *30-1-1 (IBF Champ)*
5. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH** Las Vegas, NV *23-3*
6. **NESTOR GARZA** Mexico *38-2*
7. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ** Mexico *26-1-1*
8. **ANTONIO CERMENO** Venezuela *38-3*
9. **MANNY PACQUAIO** Philippines *28-2*
10. **OSCAR LARIOS** Mexico *37-2-1*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **TIM AUSTIN** Cincinnati, OH *20-0-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **PAULIE AYALA** Ft. Worth, TX *30-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JOHNNY TAPIA** Albuquerque, NM *48-1-2*
4. **VEERAPOL SAHAPROM** Thailand *27-1 (WBC Champ)*
5. **JORGE ELIECER JULIO** Colombia *42-2*
6. **CUAUHTEMOC GOMEZ** Mexico *47-7*
7. **JOHNNY BREDAHL** Denmark *45-2*
8. **ADAN VARGAS** Mexico *34-2-1*
9. **JORGE LACIERVA** Mexico *16-3-3*
10. **SAOHIN SITHCHAI CONDO** Thailand *29-9*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **JUAN CARLOS GOMEZ**
   Germany *31-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **VASSILIY JIROV**
   Kazakhstan *26-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **FABRICE TIOZZO**
   France *42-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **JOHNNY NELSON**
   England *37-12-1*
5. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ**
   Argentina *29-3-1*
6. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS**
   Pensacola, FL *32-5-1*
7. **JAMES TONEY**
   Las Vegas, NV *59-4-2*
8. **CARL THOMPSON**
   England *26-5*
9. **VIRGIL HILL**
   Bismarck, ND *45-3*
10. **SAUL MONTANA**
    Mexico *33-7*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **ROY JONES**
   Pensacola, FL *42-1 (WBC/WBA/IBF Champ)*
2. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI**
   Germany *42-0*
3. **ERIC HARDING**
   Philadephia, PA *19-0-1*
4. **REGGIE JOHNSON**
   Houston, TX *40-6-1*
5. **DAVID TELESCO**
   Port Chester, NY *23-3*
6. **MONTELL GRIFFIN**
   Chicago, IL *39-3*
7. **CHRIS JOHNSON**
   Canada *25-1-1*
8. **ANTONIO TARVER**
   Orlando, FL *16-1*
9. **GREG WRIGHT**
   Bronx, NY *18-6-2*
10. **DERRICK HARMON**
    Chicago, IL *20-1*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **SVEN OTTKE**
   Germany *19-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **BRUNO GIRARD**
   France *37-3-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **GLENN CATLEY**
   England *26-3 (WBC Champ)*
4. **JOE CALZAGHE**
   Wales *28-0*
5. **CHARLES BREWER**
   Philadelphia, PA *35-6*
6. **THOMAS TATE**
   Houston, TX *38-6*
7. **BYRON MITCHELL**
   Ozark, AL *20-1-1*
8. **MARKUS BEYER**
   Germany *18-1*
9. **RICHIE WOODHALL**
   England *26-2*
10. **GUILLERMO JONES**
    Panama *26-2-1*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS**
   Philadelphia, PA *37-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **WILLIAM JOPPY**
   Washington, D.C. *30-1-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **KEITH HOLMES**
   Washington, D.C. *35-2 (WBC Champ)*
4. **ANTWUN ECHOLS**
   Davenport, IA *24-3-1*
5. **HASSINE CHERIFI**
   France *30-3-1*
6. **ARMAND KRAJNC**
   Sweden *23-0*
7. **DAVEY HILTON**
   Canada *38-1-3*
8. **BERT SCHENK**
   Germany *24-0*
9. **BRIAN BARBOSA**
   Passaic, NJ *28-4*
10. **ANDREW COUNCIL**
    Washington, D.C. *30-7-3*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA *35-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA *32-2*
3. **JAMES PAGE**
   Pittsburg, CA *25-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. **VERNON FORREST**
   Atlanta, GA *31-0*
5. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI *51-3-1*
6. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico *30-4-1*
7. **SHANNAN TAYLOR**
   Australia *27-0-1*
8. **THOMAS DAMGAARD**
   Denmark *20-0*
9. **DERRELL COLEY**
   Capitol Heights, MD *34-2-2*
10. **ANDREW LEWIS**
    Guyana *19-0-1*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia *25-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **ZAB JUDAH**
   Brooklyn, NY *24-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
   Washington, D.C. *46-2 (WBA Champ)*
4. **ENER JULIO**
   Colombia *21-3*
5. **RANDALL BAILEY**
   Miami, FL *21-1*
6. **TERRONN MILLETT**
   St. Louis, MO *22-2-1*
7. **ANTONIO DIAZ**
   Coachella, CA *32-2*
8. **MICKY WARD**
   Lowell, MA *35-9*
9. **REGGIE GREEN**
   Clinton, MD *33-4*
10. **HECTOR CAMACHO JR**
    Puerto Rico *29-0*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **JOSE LUIS CASTILLO**
   Mexico *41-4 (WBC Champ)*
2. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO *30-2*
3. **ANGEL MANFREDY**
   Gary, IN *33-4-1*
4. **PAUL SPADAFORA**
   Pittsburgh, PA *30-0 (IBF Champ)*
5. **CESAR BAZAN**
   Mexico *37-3-1*
6. **TAKANORI HATAKEYAMA**
   Japan *23-1-2 (WBA Champ)*
7. **ARTUR GRIGORIAN**
   Uzbekistan *30-0*
8. **IVAN ROBINSON**
   Philadelphia, PA *29-4*
9. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
   Puerto Rico *51-6*
10. **BEN TACKIE**
    Ghana *20-1*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER**
   Grand Rapids, MI *23-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **DIEGO CORRALES**
   Sacramento, CA *32-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **JOEL CASAMAYOR**
   Miami, FL *22-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **ACELINO FREITAS**
   Brazil *26-0*
5. **JONGKWON BAEK**
   South Korea *21-1-1*
6. **LAKVA SIM**
   Mongolia *12-2-1*
7. **JESUS CHAVEZ**
   Mexico *32-1*
8. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea *27-3-1*
9. **GOYO VARGAS**
   Mexico *40-7-1*
10. **ROBERTO GARCIA**
    Oxnard, CA *33-2*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. *38-1*
2. **IN JOO CHO**
   South Korea *18-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **HIDEKI TODAKA**
   Japan *17-2-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **FELIX MACHADO**
   Venezuela *19-3-1 (IBF Champ)*
5. **JESUS ROJAS**
   Venezuela *33-8-3*
6. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines *41-3-2*
7. **YOKTHAI SITHOAR**
   Thailand *22-1-1*
8. **JOEL LUNA-ZARATE**
   Mexico *33-3-2*
9. **SAMSON TOYOTA-THAILAND**
   Thailand *36-0*
10. **ADONIS RIVAS**
    Nicaragua *15-1-1*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **ERIC MOREL**
   Madison, WI *26-0 (WBA Champ)*
2. **MALCOLM TUNACAO**
   Philippines *11-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **IRENE PACHECO**
   Colombia *24-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **SORNPICHAI PISNURACHANK**
   Thailand *19-1*
5. **CHATCHAI DUTCHBOY GYM**
   Thailand *37-2*
6. **MEDGOEN TOYOTA-THAILAND**
   Thailand *20-1*
7. **SAEN SOR PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand *38-1*
8. **JOSE BONILLA**
   Venezuela *27-5*
9. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
   Mexico *43-3*
10. **ISIDRO GARCIA**
    Los Angeles, CA *20-1-1*

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Mexico *48-0-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **YOSAM CHOI**
   South Korea *22-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **PICHIT C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *22-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **ROSENDO ALVAREZ**
   Nicaragua *26-1-1*
5. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand *42-3-1*
6. **HAWK MAKEPULA**
   South Africa *18-0*
7. **MELCHOR COB-CASTRO**
   Mexico *58-6-4*
8. **WILL GRIGSBY**
   St. Paul, MN *15-2-1*
9. **JORGE ARCE**
   Mexico *23-3-1*
10. **HIDENOBU HONDA**
    Japan *20-1*

STRAWWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 105 pounds

1. **ZOLANI PETELO**
   South Africa *16-2-2 (IBF Champ)*
2. **JOSE AGUIRRE**
   Mexico *23-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **CHANA PORPAOIN**
   Thailand *41-1-1*
4. **NOEL ARAMBULET**
   Venezuela *12-1-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **WANDEE SINGWANGCHA**
   Thailand *25-4*
6. **SONGKRAM PORPAOIN**
   Thailand *20-2-1*
7. **KERMIN GUARDIA**
   Columbia *32-2*
8. **JOSE GARCIA**
   Colombia *22-5-1*
9. **JOMA GAMBOA**
   Philippines *28-5-1*
10. **DANIEL REYES**
    Colombia *24-0*

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April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Truth Williams, Tyrell Biggs, Greg Richardson, Julio Cesar Chavez, Paul-Blake, Witherspoon-Bonecrusher, Berbick-Bey, Pinklon Thomas.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Jeff Fenech, Berbick-Green, John E. Garcia, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

March 1986 (Awards Issue): Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Ring's Annual Awards, Evander Holyfield, Williamson-Muhammad, Camacho-Roach, 1985 boxing diary.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook The Boxing World. Rosario-Bramble & Honeyghan-Curry. Plus: Butch Lewis interview, Buster Drayton, Hector Camacho, Jake LaMotta.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple Crown. Plus: McCallum-Curry, Carlos Monzon interview, triple champions, Orlin & Terry Norris, Ramirez-Alli, Fenech-Richardson, Matthew Hilton.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: Carlos Monzon, Mike Tyson, Leonard-Duran, Daniel Zaragoza, Nunn-Barkley, Whitaker-Ramirez, George Foreman (color).

Feb. 1990: Mike Tyson: Riddick Bowe & Ray Mercer Take Aim. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Chuck Wepner, Antonio Esparragoza, Roman-Laciar.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker: Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Tiger Flowers, Duran-Leonard, Chavez-Taylor preview, Jorge Paez, Ali-Cooper.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough: "Tyson Won't Be That Difficult!" Plus: Ed Hopson, Russian fighters, grudge wars, Archie Moore, Kid Berg, Marcel Cerdan, Chavez-Cortes.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before," By Evander Holyfield. Plus: James Toney, Buddy McGirt, Glenwood Brown, Aaron Davis, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan, Mark Breland, Ali-Liston II (color).

Aug. 1990: Chavez: His Greatness Confirmed ... Is He The Best Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, John L. Sullivan & Mike Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Cus D'Amato, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler-Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Oct. 1990: Rocky Graziano—Thanks For The Memories. Plus: Aaron Pryor, Junior Jones, Mike Tyson, Chris Eubank, Wolgast-Nelson, Hall of Fame.

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman. Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past? Plus: Bruce Seldon, best chins, Sullivan-Kilrain (color), Azumah Nelson, LaStarza.

Dec. 1990: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Douglas-Holyfield preview, Julio Cesar Chavez, Joe Grim, Whitaker-Nazario, Rosi-Van Horn, Benny Leonard, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV—Now You'll Pay! Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison in *Rocky V*, Reggie Tuur, Chiquita Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis.

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ, But ... Plus: Dempsey-Firpo, Charles Murray, Khaosai Galaxy, Nunn-Curry, Henry Armstrong, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Tyson-Stewart, James Leija, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, Moore-Bassey.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Foreman-Holyfield preview, Norris-Leonard, David Kamau, Freddie Steele, Bennie Briscoe, Leonard's career (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be...But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill (color). Plus: Making weight, Harry Greb, Kevin Kelley, Louis-Conn I, Simon Brown-Blocker, Chavez-Duplessis, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 world champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

May 1992: James Toney—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Myung Woo Yuh, Khaosai Galaxy, Rocky Graziano, Billy Soose, Roy Jones, James Warring, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

June 1992: What Now? Boxing Without Mike Tyson. Plus: Buck Smith, Liston-Foreman, Billy Graham, Holmes-Mercer, Enrique Pinder, Hilario Zapata, Toney-Tiberi, Benny Lynch, Tony DeMarco, Tyson centerfold (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes Prefight. Holmes: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Herbie Hide, George Foreman, Tex Cobb, Carnival of Champions, Harry Greb, Haugen-Mancini, Oscar De La Hoya, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Face These Guys? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Leonard's career, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).

Nov. 1992: Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Morrison-Hipp, Canizales-Chandler, Chavez-Camacho preview, Australia Best of Nation, Tyson speaks from prison, Corbett-Sullivan (color), Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown.

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior

Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).

April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, All-Time Top 10: Argentina, Fighters of the Year (color).

May 1993: Oscar De La Hoya's Sprint To The Title: Is He Good Enough *Now?* Plus: Carbajal-Gonzalez preview, Lennox Lewis, THE RING Poll, Freddie Pendleton.

Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chavez Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 hardest punchers, Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, closing of the Fifth Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

Oct. 1993: Tommy Morrison: Good Enough To Beat Big George, But Will He Win The Heavyweight Title? Plus: Riddick Bowe, Mike Capriano, Billy Conn-Joe Louis, All-Time Top 10: Puerto Rico, Charles Murray.

April 1994: Michael Carbajal: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Brown-Norris, Kevin Kelley, Ceferino Garcia, Oscar De La Hoya, Tunney Hunsaker, Spinks-Foster.

Aug. 1994: Bowe's Back! Determined To Do It Again. Plus: Eric Griffin, Pernell Whitaker, Ray Mercer, Roger Donoghue, State of the Game (midterm report), All-Time Top 10: The Philippines.

Oct. 1994: Rating The Champs: Whitaker & Toney Lead The Field ... But Roy Jones Is Closing Fast. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Meldrick Taylor, Rafael Ruelas, Curtis Cokes.

Nov. 1994: With Lewis Fighting Bowe ... Is Michael Moorer's Career Off-Target? Plus: Wayne McCullough, Hall of Fame, Alejandro Lavorante, Rocky Marciano, Paz-Duran, Injuries (part I), What If ... Pedroza vs. Sanchez.

Dec. 1994: Fighting-Mad! James Toney Just Wants To Beat People Up. Plus: Duran & Robinson, Don King, Mike McCallum, Injuries (part II), Tom Molineaux.

Jan. 1995: A Puncher's Dream: Oliver McCall Upsets Boxing's Balance Of Power. Plus: Ruelas brothers, Quincy Taylor, "Unfinished Business," Dave Maier, All-Time Top 10: Canada.

May 1995: The State Of The Game. Plus: Olzubek & Arbachakov, Gonzalez-Kelley, Pazienza-Duran II, All-Time Top 10: France.

June 1995: (92-Page Special): Foreman Frowns Upon The Age Gap: "I Don't Think Tyson Should Fight Anyone But Me." Plus: Least deserving heavyweight challengers, Carlos Monzon, Kostya Tszyu.

July 1995: Pernell Whitaker: *The Ring* Makes "Pound-For-Pound" An Official Title. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Ike Quartey, Benn-McClellan, TV prospects, Hector Acero-Sanchez, Harry Matthews, What If ... Robinson-Burley.

Oct. 1995 (92-Page Special): Mismatch? Don't Tell Peter McNeeley! Plus: Fights we'd like to see, Jo-el Scott, Bronco McKart, when stop fights?

Dec. 1995: McNeeley Goes Too Soon—Mike Tyson: The Beast Is Yet To Come. Plus: Tommy Morrison, Naseem Hamed, Chiquita Gonzalez, Gaspar Ortega, best chins.

Winter 1995 (92-Page Special): Buster Mathis Jr.: "Mike Tyson, You Got A Fight Comin' On." Plus: Holyfield-Bowe III preview, Wayne McCullough, Jesse James Hughes, Norris-Vaden preview, *The Ring* Insiders' Poll, What If ... Moore-Ayala Jr.

Feb. 1996: Bowe's The Man (For Now), But Is He Man Enough For Tyson? Also: Lennox Lewis, Hamed-Barrera, Paul Banke, Vince Phillips, boxing on Madison Ave., What If ... Leonard-Pryor.

May 1996: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Frankie Randall, Tim Witherspoon, Roy Jones, Bernard Hopkins.

Sept. 1996: Lennox Lewis: Tough Enough For Tyson? Plus: Lewis-Mercer, Olympic team, Pernell Whitaker, Mark Johnson, Rocky, Scrapiron Johnson, heavyweight hopefuls.

Nov. 1996: Pole-Axed! Low Blows, Sinking Bowe, Ugly Show. Plus: Bowe-Golota I, Blinky Palermo, exciting fighters, Winky Wright, Joe Brown.

Dec. 1996: Our Spin On Roy Jones. Plus: heavyweight division, Olympic recap, Luis Rodriguez, Puerto Rican fighters, Danny Hodge, Saad Muhammad.

May 1997: De La Hoya-Whitaker: Can "Sweet Pea" Stop Oscar's March To Greatness? Plus: Fitzsimmons-Corbett, Junior Jones, Phillip Holiday, Don King, Zaragoza-McCullough.

June 1997 (Special Collector's Issue): Holyfield-Tyson II: What It Means For Now ... And Forever. Plus: Holyfield-Tyson fight poster, Naseem Hamed, computer unification, Sayers-Heenan, state of the game.

July 1997: Leonard: There Wasn't Even A Ray Of Hope. Plus: Felix Trinidad, David Reid, Willie deWit & Shawn O'Sullivan, THE RING's 75th anniversary, Moore-Durelle I.

Oct. 1997: Bang! Naseem Hamed Takes Aim At America. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Phillips-Tszyu, Saman Sorjaturong, Bobby Dykes.

Holiday 1997: Roy Jones: When He's Motivated, He's Unstoppable—Got That, Evander? Plus: Julio Cesar Green, Sugar Shane Mosley, boxers' day jobs, Tyson's mentor, Kid Lavigne.

Jan. 1998: Give This Man His Due! If You Can't Respect Oscar ... You Can't Respect Anyone! Plus: Sanchez-Mayweather, Morales-Zaragoza, Lucia Rijker, Marvin Johnson, characters.

Feb. 1998: Welter-Skelter! The Hottest Division In Boxing. Plus: Lewis-Golota, Olympic update, Art Shires, boxing I.Q.

March 1998 (92-Page Special): Into The Millennium With The Real Deal: THE RING's Timeline For Evander Holyfield. Plus: Hernandez-Hernandez, Briggs-Foreman, 10 champs recall "The Day I Won The Title," Johnny Thompson.

April 1998: Evander Holyfield: THE RING's Fighter Of The Year (Again!). Plus: Yory Boy Campas, Mullings-Norris, Pinkey Mitchell, Holyfield Q & A, Hamed-Kelley, Oscar De La Hoya.

May 1998: Wrestling With His Reinstatement: Is Tyson Biting The Hand That Feeds Him? Plus: Lewis-Briggs preview, Michael Grant, Manfredy-Gatti, Ski Goldstein, Dan Donnelly.

June 1998 (92-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Plus: Tyson-King, David Reid, Bernard Hopkins, Ken Norton.

July 1998: Holyfield ... Tapia ... Hamed ... Jones ... Trinidad ... De La Hoya: Who Will Be The First To Fall? Plus: Magic Johnson, Chavez-Gonzalez & Lopez-Alvarez, underappreciated boxers.

Aug. 1998: Lennox Lewis: No Holyfield, No Glory. Plus: Felix Trinidad, Pat & Mike McMurtry, Chris Byrd, unbreakable records, contenders & pretenders.

Sept. 1998 (92-Page Special): This Man's Not Unbeatable! Five Top Trainers Reveal How To Solve The Hamed Puzzle. Plus: John Tate, Freddie Norwood, Andrew Golota, Roy Jones, 12 greatest finishes.

Oct. 1998: Really Hard Punch ... Really Soft Lips: Oscar Makes Legs Quiver In And Out Of The Ring. Plus: Hector Camacho Jr., Mayweather-Hernandez preview, *Tuesday Night Fights.*

Nov. 1998: Oscar De La Hoya vs. The All-Time Greats. Plus: David Reid, Fernando Vargas, Cory Spinks, LeRoy Neiman, Don King, Hall of Fame.

Jan. 1999: Sugar Shane Mosley: The Sweet Tradition Continues. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Julio Cesar Chavez, Erik Morales, Ray "Windmill" White.

Feb. 1999: 1999! It's Gonna Be A Great Year For Boxing. Plus: Mike Tyson, Foreman-Holmes, David Reid, Eric Morel, Richie Mitchell, quitters.

March 1999: De La Hoya vs. Quartey: Does Bazooka Have The Weapons To Shoot Down Oscar? Plus: Sugar Shane Mosley, Lopez-Alvarez II, Roy Jones, Coley Wallace.

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May 1999: Is It All Over For Tyson? Plus: Terry Norris, Vinny Pazienza, Jesus Pimental, stoppages, mandatories.

June 1999: The Fans Have Spoken: Results Of *The Ring* Readers' Poll. Plus: Michael Grant, De La Hoya-Quartey, Antwun Echols, Ted Lowry.

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Sept. 1999: Taking Stock In The Fight Game: Who's Hot, Who's Not. Plus: Tony Ayala, Keith Holmes, Denny & Phil Moyer, scoring.

Oct. 1999 (92-Page Special): Felix & Oscar Go To War! Who's Going To Prevail In The Welter Shootout? Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Harry Simon, Omar Sheika, Al Andrews, 20 greatest fighters of 20th century.

Nov. 1999: Three Belts Aren't Enough! What The Fans Demand Of Roy Jones! Plus: Davey Hilton, Maurice Harris, Byron Mitchell, Ayala-Tapia, '99 Hall of Fame.

Dec. 1999: Insiders' Analysis: Can Roy Jones Chop Down The Best Heavyweights? Plus: Ike Ibeabuchi, David Reid, David Tua, Carmen Basilio, Johnny Summerlin.

Holiday 1999 (92-Page Special): Heavyweight Showdowns! Holyfield vs. Lewis II, Grant vs. Golota. Plus: Francois Botha, Arturo Gatti, Michael Carbajal, Rocky Marciano, Lou Filippo.

Jan. 2000: What Does Trinidad's Victory Over Oscar Mean? Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Paul Spadafora, Ralph Dupas, boxing media.

Feb. 2000: Who Is Roy Jones? A Revealing Look At Boxing's Pound-For-Pound Best. Plus: Tyson-Norris, Matty McCue, tactical blunders, best fights of the '90s.

March 2000: Lennox Lewis: The Champ For The Millennium ... Or Just For The Moment? Plus: Oleg Maskaev, Main Events, Derrick Jefferson, Jerry Buss, IBF scandal.

April 2000 (92-Page Special): Paulie Ayala—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Grant-Golota, Stephan Johnson, Gaspar Ortega, Kitten Hayward, writers' favorite fights.

May 2000: Lennox Lewis Will Quit ... Or Get Knocked Out, By Michael Grant. Plus: Roy Jones, Quartey-Vargas preview, Garth Panter, best chins, boxing movies.

June 2000: The Honors Keep Coming! Lenox Lewis Receives The Undisputed *Ring* Belt. Plus: Roy Jones, Vernon Forrest, Teddy Atlas, Mike Tyson, Don Fullmer.

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Aug. 2000: Hamed! And The Men Who Want To Kick His Naz! Plus: David Reid, James Prince, Anthony Fletcher, Micky Ward, final beatings, white hopes.

Sept. 2000: A New Look At Lennox Lewis: Is He An All-Time Great? Plus: Winky Wright, Michael Moorer, De La Hoya & Vargas, Eddie McGoorty.

Oct. 2000 (92-Page Special): Move Up Or Shut Up! We're Sick Of Roy Jones' Heavyweight Tease. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Tapia & Romero, Hasim Rahman, Dwight Qawi, Al Palzer, fight films, best refs.

Nov. 2000: Make The Tyson-Lewis Fight Now! Plus: Mosley-De La Hoya, Acelino Freitas, Pat Lawlor, Fred Norwood, Jeff Chandler, Vito Antuofermo.

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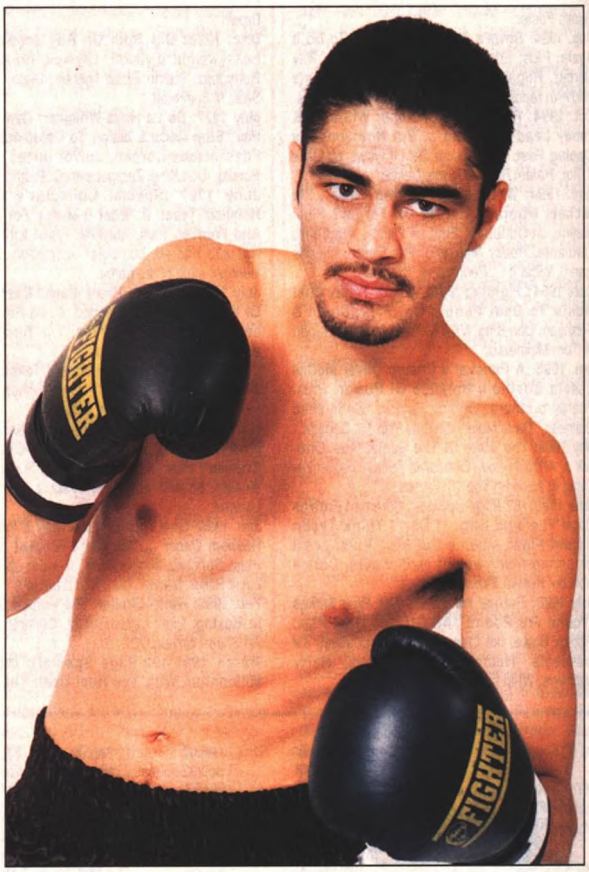

There are some interesting paradoxes to light heavyweight Julio Gonzalez' personality. One minute, he displays the aggression and arrogance of the unbeaten prospect that he is; the next, he shows his compassionate side. These contradictory aspects of Gonzalez' disposition were never more clearly illustrated than on May 5, 2000, when he knocked out previously undefeated Jesus "Chucho" Ruiz.

It was a brutal fight between a pair of up-and-comers, and the immediate future of both fighters was at stake. The enthusiastic crowd on hand at the grounds of Steven's Steak House in Commerce, California, started chanting "Chucho, Chucho" in the opening seconds. But they soon changed their allegiance as Gonzalez began to fire shot after shot, landing almost at will.

Ruiz was so taken aback by Gonzalez' attack that he never really recovered sufficiently to land any significant punches of his own. He did, however, display tremendous courage, answering the bell round after round as the one-sided beating continued. Finally, his left cheek was so badly disfigured, the referee had no recourse other than to stop the fight at the 2:45 mark of the ninth round.

But when it was all over, instead of celebrating the biggest victory of his career, Gonzalez went to his severely beaten opponent's corner to check on his alarmingly bloated face. He had good reason to be concerned. Ruiz spent the next three days in the hospital, but was then released with a clean bill of health.

Gonzalez was born in Guerrero, Baja California Sur, Mexico, and raised on a ranch his father acquired under a government land grant. He moved to Huntington Beach at age 12 when his family hit hard times ecomomically.

"When I was in school, I was actually interested in wrestling and baseball. Then I tried boxing. I liked all sports, but I found boxing was

(Continued on page 61)

PRO RECORD

1997		
April 7	Alex Federov, Anaheim, CA	W 4
May 30	Alex Federov, Irvine, CA	KO 2
June 9	James Brock, Anaheim	KO 1
June 27	Robert Rios, Irvine	KO 1
Aug. 11	Charles Jefferson, Anaheim	W 4
Sept. 29	James Brock, Inglewood, CA	KO 2
Dec. 8	Zaire Patterson, Inglewood	W 4
1998		
Feb. 23	Nathaniel Miles, Inglewood	W 6
March 26	Jude Agu, Irvine	W 6
May 28	Calvin Combs, Irvine	KO 5
July 11	Aljenon DeBose, Long Beach, CA	KO 4
July 20	Derrick Edwards, Inglewood	W 6
Sept. 26	Charles Davis, Lake Tahoe, NV	W 6
Dec. 7	Gustavo Enriquez, Inglewood	W 6
1999		
March 8	Paul Jones, Anaheim	KO 2
May 14	Benny Barra, Temecula, CA	KO 3
June 21	Reggie Roberts, Inglewood	W 8
July 31	Akinobu Yamamura, Nagoya, Japan	KO 3
Oct. 4	Wilson Smith, Anaheim	KO 3
Dec. 3	Gary Campbell, Temecula	KO 2
2000		
March 11	David Boone, Maywood, CA	KO 5
May 5	Jesus Ruiz, Commerce, CA	KO 9
June 22	Tony Menefee, Anaheim	KO 4
July 29	Patrick Swann, Lake Tahoe	KO 4

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KOs
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CHAVEZ/GAMACHE • MOORER/FOREMAN • DURAN/CAMACHO
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CAMERA CLICKS

PHOTO BY RAY BAILEY

After years of struggling to come up with a catch-phrase to rival those of fellow ring announcers Michael Buffer and Jimmy Lennon Jr., Mark Beiro finally decided his best bet was to become known as the guy who thinks the ring ropes are monkey bars. "You won't see Ed Derian risking his hip replacement with stunts like these," Beiro quipped.

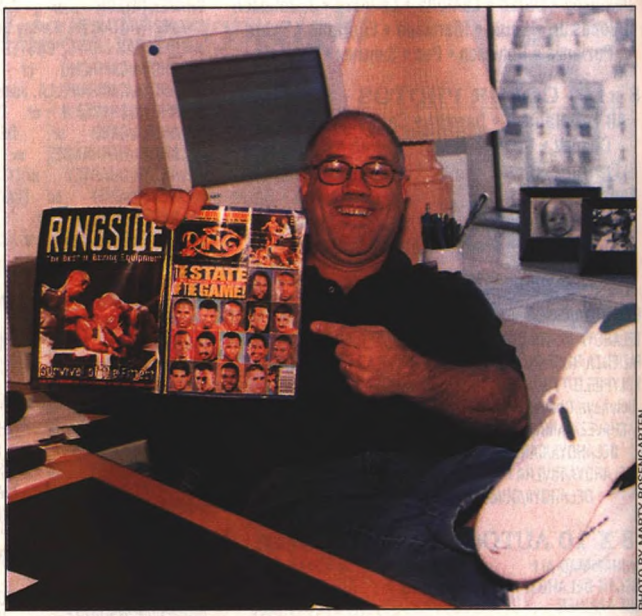


PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Showtime honcho Jay Larkin is going to have a hard time convincing us that he really has a high-pressure job after letting this picture out. Sporting jeans and sneakers, Larkin apparently spends his days kicking his feet up on his desk and reading his favorite boxing magazine.

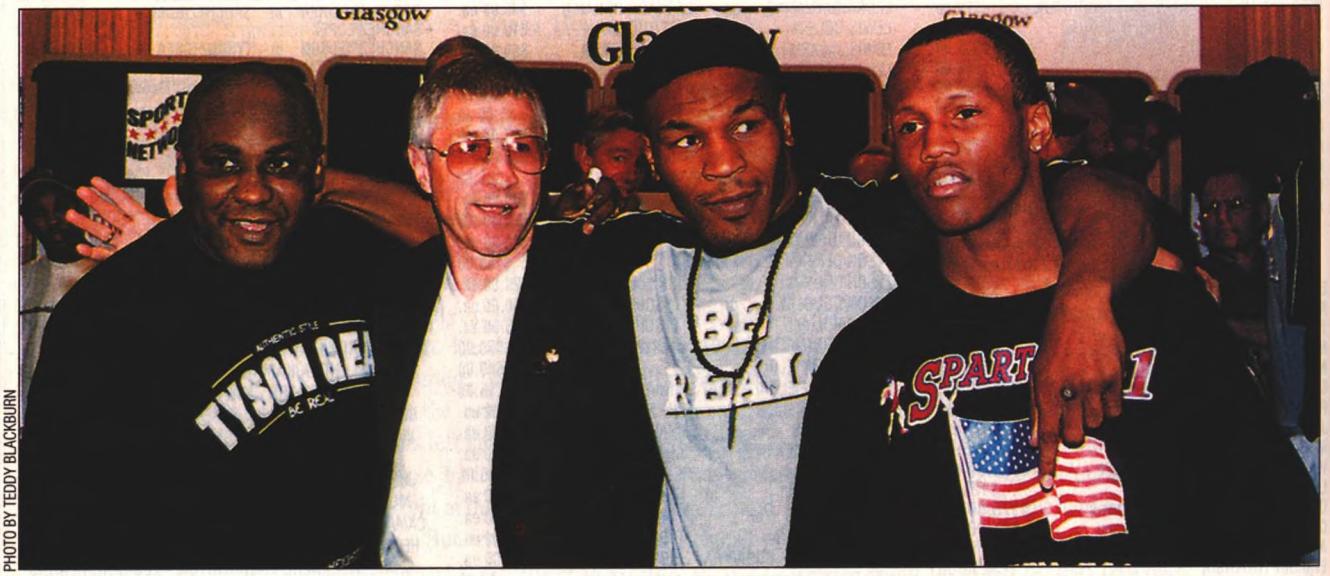


PHOTO BY TEDDY BLACKBURN

Hall of Famer Ken Buchanan sure seemed excited to welcome Mike McCallum, Mike Tyson, and Zab Judah to his native Scotland—but that was before seeing "Iron Mike" at his havoc-wreaking worst against Lou Savarese. There were no reported problems with the behavior of McCallum or Judah, at least.

PHOTO BY WAYNE BERNATH

Oscar De La Hoya can't be taking his loss to Sugar Shane Mosley that hard if he's out on the town, smoking cigars and cavorting with a Tina Turner impersonator. Rumor has it that Bob Arum, De La Hoya's promoter and the man behind Butterbean and Mia St. John, is working on recruiting the she-male to join his roster.

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Thank goodness he's not wearing a kilt: Lou Duva endeared himself to the fight fans in Glasgow by sporting a colorful Scottish tam-o-shanter, but he was smart enough to stop short of showing more leg than anyone needs to see.

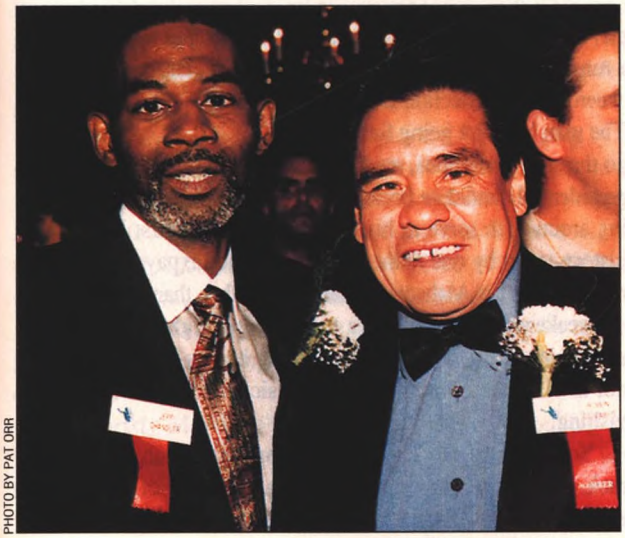


PHOTO BY PAT ORR

Who's the best bantamweight of the last 30 years? Possibly one of the men in this picture. Jeff Chandler and Ruben Olivares, two of the all-time great 118-pounders, met at the International Boxing Hall of Fame this past June, but it was a friendly occasion, so they didn't lace on the gloves and settle the debate.

NOSTALGIA CORNER

You know you're a true fighter when you put on hand wraps just to carve up a turkey. That's world light heavyweight champ Joey Maxim serving the bird to European light heavy king Don Cockell and world middleweight champion Randy Turpin in this photo from August 1951.

PHOTO BY BRIAN CANNON/DKP

Considering what happened to Mamadou Thiam's right eye when it came into contact with Felix Trinidad's left hand, you'd expect Zab Judah to think a little more about positioning when posing for a photo with "Tito." Judah was on hand to congratulate the WBA 154-pound champ following his explosive win over Thiam in Miami.

RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

CAMPAIGN 2000

Not everyone who has ascended to the highest office in the land has been a lifetime politician. We've had Presidents who were actors, peanut farmers, lawyers, carpenters, and even newspaper editors. So maybe it's time a boxer got the chance to do the job. There are loads of deserving candidates in the fight game, and a few could surely get elected. After all, haven't the voters always loved war heroes?

Here's a list of 15 boxing people who'd make outstanding leaders of the free world. Believe me, if any one of them decided to run as an independent, neither George W. Bush nor Al Gore would get a sound night's sleep between now and Election Day.

1) **Butterbean:** Don't chuckle. The man has a lot going for him.

For starters, he doesn't have to go through the tedious, media-teasing process of selecting a vice presidential candidate because that extra 130 pounds he's carrying around can serve as his running mate. The first President in history to go by one name would save the taxpayers money by retreating to an Alabama trailer park, rather than Camp David, on weekends. And while it's true that he might want to install aluminum siding on the White House, he has at least promised not to blare the Lynryd Skynryd music when heads of state are visiting.

PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

Ike already has the suit and the nickname

You have to love The Bean's campaign slogan: "A chicken, rack of ribs, package of hot dogs, and pound of spaghetti in every pot, and two rusty Corvairs up on blocks in every garage."

2) **Bob Arum:** The modern day George Washington. "I lied yesterday when I said I chopped down the cherry tree. Today, I'm telling the truth when I say the near-sighted landscaper did it."

3) **Floyd Mayweather:** He'd be a real natural on the campaign trail. That smile is magnetic, and romantic interludes with girls his age have given him plenty of practice kissing babies. His real strength, though, may be in foreign affairs. When he faces the combination-punching of Joel Casamayor one of these days, Mayweather is going to gain plenty of experience in dealing with a Cuban missile crisis.

4) **Roy Jones:** Who said the vice president doesn't have to do anything? President Jones would keep his veep (Derrick Gainer, course) on his toes by threatening to quit every few months. Jones would also make Dr. Dre's birthday a national holiday and increase funding for a mission to Mars. But don't worry, despite rumors to the contrary, Jones says he won't allow HBO to paint its logo on Air Force One.

5) **Ike Ibeabuchi:** All right, so he's not American and can't run. Still, he'd be perfect for the job. People have been calling him "The President" for years, so he's comfortable with the title. And talk about a guy who'd make a real difference. As

soon as he announced his candidacy, Ibeabuchi would help the environment by getting everyone to recycle those old "I Like Ike" buttons. And just having him off the streets and behind a desk would immediately lower the nation's crime rate.

6) **Cliff Etienne:** Anyone nicknamed "The Black Rhino" could be counted on to care about wildlife and ecology. As a matter of fact, despite protests from the logging industry, one of President Etienne's first acts would be to sign a bill that prohibits the cutting and clearing of Vernon Forrest.

7) **Jim Lampley:** We want a President who makes us feel good, and even though Lamps would deliver plenty of bad news to the country, nobody would get too upset because they wouldn't be able to understand what the hell he was telling them.

President Lampley on the launch of a nuclear attack against the U.S.: "My fellow Americans, it is with exigency and great solicitude that I inform you of a peregrination of intercontinental projectiles."

8) **Johnny Tapia:** Opinions are split on what kind of world leader he'd be, but he's another guy who'd save the taxpayers money. Because he's so skinny and elusive, President Tapia wouldn't need as many Secret Service agents to shield him from gunfire.

9) **Evander Holyfield:** With apologies to G.W., judging by the size of Holyfield's brood, "The Real Deal" might literally be the father of our country. Like Butterbean, Holyfield would probably insist on a few White House renovations in order to make the place feel more like his current home in Georgia. The addition of, oh, 30 more rooms and another hundred acres ought to do it.

10) **Angel Manfredy:** He vows to increase funding for the arts. Here's a great idea: paying his tattoo artist $500,000 to find another medium.

11) **Christy Martin:** Elect "The Coal Miner's Daughter" and sleep like a baby. Judging by her hand speed in recent bouts, we'd never have to worry about a quick finger on the nuclear button.

12) **George Foreman:** Here's a case of a guy who knew at a young age what he wanted to be when he grew up. Remember that photo of a young Bill Clinton shaking hands with John F. Kennedy? Well, check out the photo of a young Foreman shaking hands with Thomas Jefferson. Pretty moving stuff.

Physical fitness wouldn't be one of President Foreman's priorities, but fiscal fitness would be. Big George would be able to pay off the national debt within his first three years in office simply by donating a percentage of his endorsement income. And if a budget containing too much pork crossed President Foreman's desk? Well, the commander-in-chef would simply stick it in one of those grilling machines of his, press down hard on the lid, and watch the fat drip away.

"Hello, senator? President Foreman here. I'm sorry to inform you that the $200-million you wanted for that Barry Manilow Museum is not being appropriated at this time."

13) **Fernando Vargas:** Admittedly, he'd be the flakiest President we've ever had, but he sure would liven up the political landscape. He has already promised to make Ian Eagle the new national symbol and to sign a tax cut bill. But Vargas has also warned Congress that he'll veto Antuofermo.

14) **Bones Adams:** On second thought, maybe he's not such a good choice. Too many skeletons in his closet.

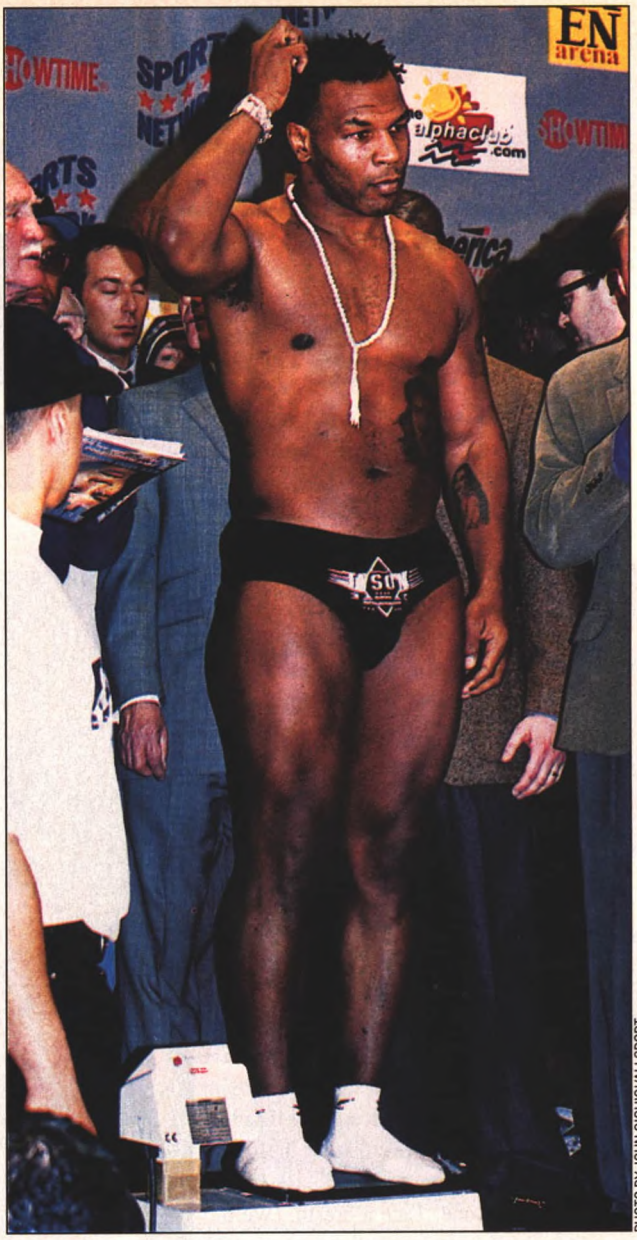


PHOTO BY JOHN GICHIGI/ALLSPORT

How will candidate Tyson weigh in on the issues?

15) **Mike Tyson:** Undoubtedly, the best choice of all. For instance, that tattoo of Mao Tse Tung would be a great ice-breaker during summit meetings with China. Also, Tyson's reputation with women assures that no interns will be lurking around The Oval Office in the hope of spending time alone with him.

The world is an increasingly rougher place, and we need a President who can turn nasty when the situation calls for it. One phone call from President Tyson, and Saddam Hussein, Muammar Qaddafi, or Yassar Arafat will wipe that smirk off his face and sit up straight with his hands folded in front of him.

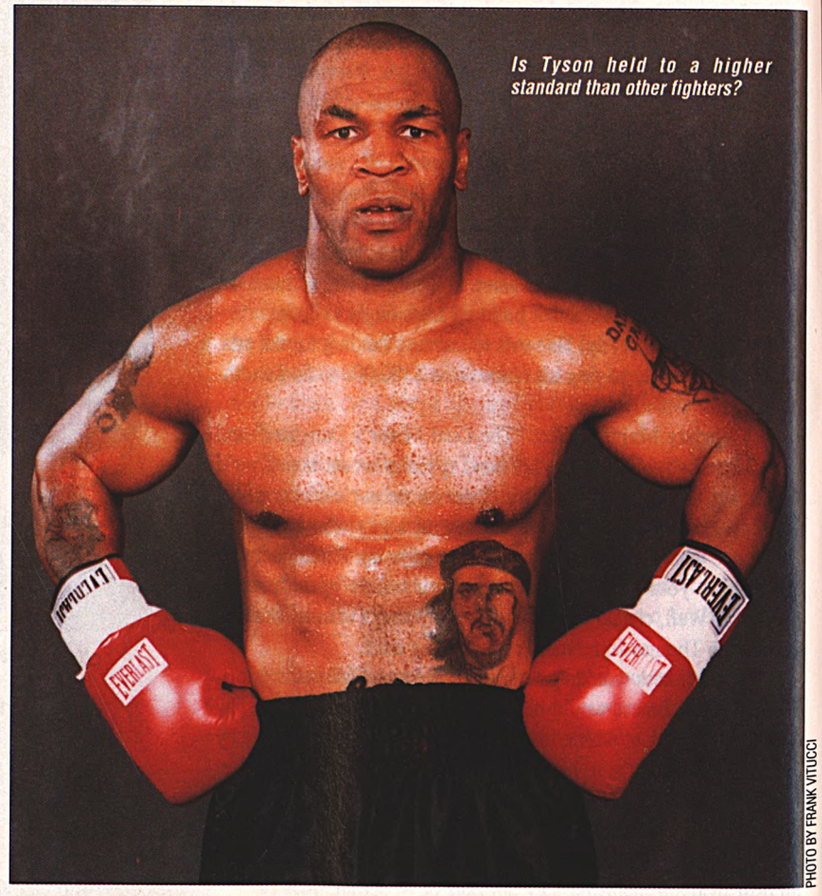
Just imagine that conversation: "Hey, Muammar, I'm the best ever! I'm the most brutal and vicious and most ruthless President there's ever been. No one can stop me. Saddam is a conqueror? No, I'm Alexander Hamilton. He's no Alexander Hamilton. I'm Teddy Roosevelt. I'm Ronald Reagan. I'm from their cloth. My style is impetuous. Our national defense is impregnable. I want to eat your children! ... " ■

PUNCH

IS IT TIME TO BAN MIKE TYSON?

Let Him Fight!

By William Dettloff



Is Tyson held to a higher standard than other fighters?

PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

You could hear the cries of outrage building the moment Mike Tyson reached around referee John Coyle to get at a helpless Lou Savarese and sent Coyle tumbling to the canvas with a glancing left hook. Coyle's apparently soft chin notwithstanding, we should have expected the outrage. We've been hearing it for a while now—every time Tyson fights, it seems, or curses at a reporter, or sneezes. This time was no different. "Another Tyson farce!" they yelled. "Tyson's out of control!" they screamed. "Tyson's lost his mind! He shouldn't be allowed to fight!" And later: "Tyson said he wants to eat Lennox Lewis' children. My God, Lennox doesn't even have children! That maniac! Ban him for life! For the sake of the children, ban him!"

Relax, everyone. Take a breath. (We'd say, "take a pill," but apparently you can't do that anymore either without it being everyone's business, but more on that later.) Make no mistake: Tyson's a thug. He's a bully and he's dirty and he's very nearly out of control. But should he be banned? Absolutely not.

Those who would like Tyson banished forever cite his in-the-ring rap sheet, which admittedly is long: He chomped off a good portion of Evander Holyfield's right ear; he "admitted" trying to break Frans Botha's arm in a clinch; he hit poor Orlin Norris two weeks after the bell, and Coyle very nearly had to dump a cold bucket of water on him to pry him off of Savarese. All objectionable acts to be sure, especially the biting, what with the whole world watching. So why shouldn't he be banned? Because if he was some middleweight or lightweight pug from Jersey City or Tulsa or Mexicali and had a 20-12 record and committed these sins, you wouldn't even know about it. Neither would the various commissions, and if they did, they wouldn't care.

It's simple: Tyson is held to a higher standard. Much of that is his own doing. The more he flips the bird to those in authority and the more he breaks the rules, the more comfortable the press and the commissions feel blasting him when he crosses the line. But it's also because he's so visible. When was the last time a Tyson fight wasn't televised? When was the last time you opened a boxing magazine and didn't see him mentioned somewhere? Has there been a better-known fighter in the last 20 years? Of course not. Here is Lennox Lewis getting ready to defend against David Tua—

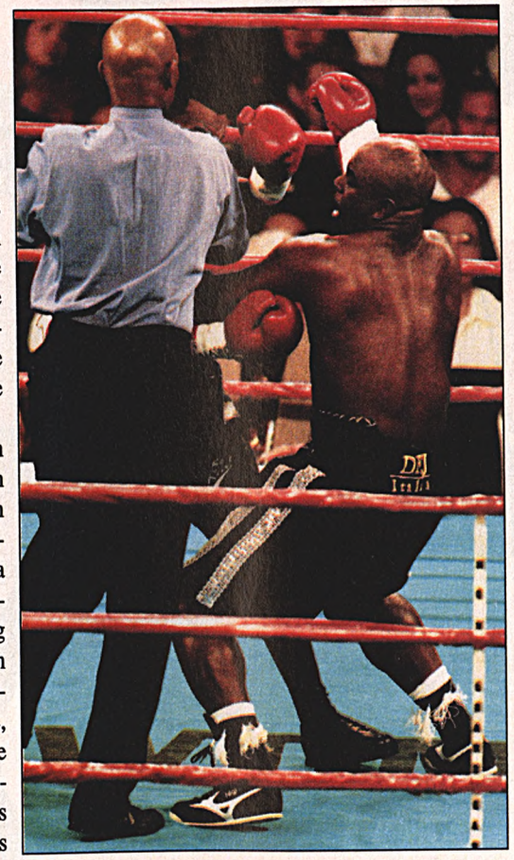
(Continued on page 62)

COUNTERPUNCH

MIKE TYSON?

Give Him The Boot!

By Ivan Goldman



Tyson's blatant late hit on Orlin Norris was just one of many transgressions

As he stumbles through this (hopefully) last, ugliest stage of his career, Mike Tyson has less in common with practitioners of the sport of boxing than he does with those old carnival geeks who were employed to bite the heads off chickens.

It's ludicrous even to consider letting him fight again. Champion Lennox Lewis, questioned yet again about a future match with Tyson, noted that boxing has rules, and Tyson won't obey them. Lewis was right, of course, but what matters to the people who put together boxing shows is money. And Tyson's traveling freak show—always one jump ahead of the most recent commission to give up on him—is the biggest draw in boxing today.

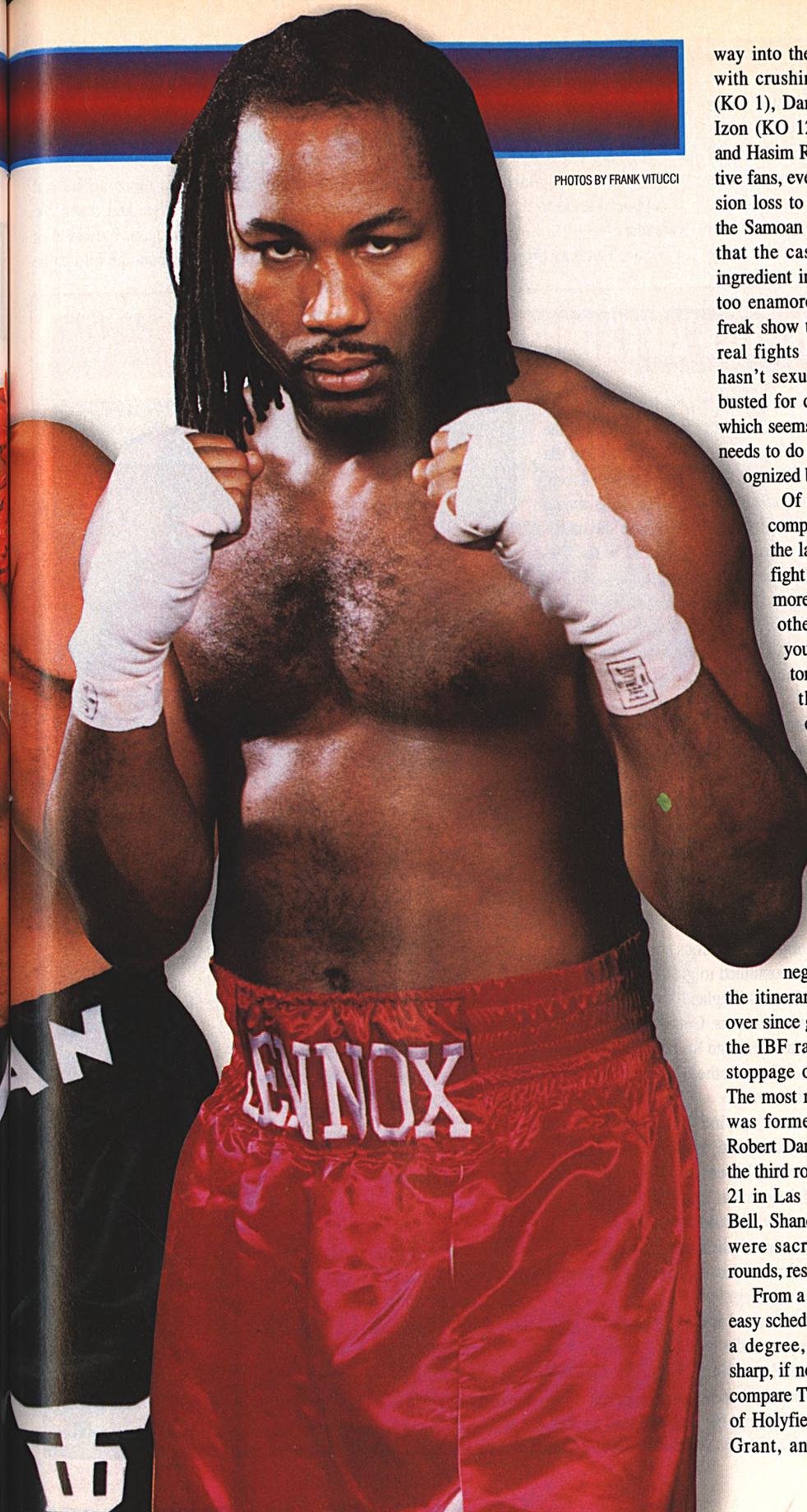
Despite Tyson's despicable tactics, Lewis would sign to fight him in a Silicon Valley microsecond. But Tyson, although he says he longs to eat Lewis' children, is believed to have already shelled out millions in step-aside money to avoid fighting him. And he would do it again rather than face Lewis or any other top-of-the-line heavyweight.

But what Tyson says is not terribly important. Neither is what he does outside the ring—at least when it comes to deciding whether he should be allowed to fight again.

Boxing already banished one larger-than-life heavyweight for his actions outside the ring. It was an awful mistake when the sport ejected its greatest heavyweight champion, Muhammad Ali, at the peak of his career because he refused to serve in the military. These days, those who ignore or don't know the facts are touting Ali as a kindly Samaritan who lived his life to serve others, which is utter fiction. The man who traveled from press conference to press conference thumping a gorilla doll

(Continued on page 63)

TUA'S THE MAN WHO COULD GIVE LEWIS THE HOOK!



PHOTOS BY FRANK VITUCCI

By Nigel Collins

Just like some guys will ignore the beautiful girl next door and lust after the slut down the street, fight fans are often guilty of overlooking the obvious. While millions of potential pay-per-view patrons drool at the remote prospect of a match between Lennox Lewis and Mike Tyson, Lewis has a far more daunting task looming in his immediate future. In fact, there's a legitimate chance that his November date with David Tua will turn out to be the toughest assignment of the reigning champion's career.

As has frequently been noted, there are a number of striking similarities between Tua and Tyson. Both are short, stocky powerhouses who love to mix it up. Both punch with paralyzing power and finish off wounded opponents with the frightening ferocity of blood-crazed piranha. But that's where the favorable comparisons end and the unflattering ones begin.

Tyson is old (34) and on the skids; Tua is young (28 on November 21) and at his fighting peak. Tua continues to work to refine his skills; Tyson fights from memory. Tyson beats up old men on the side of the road; Tua helps old ladies across the street. But the character issue aside, Tua is much closer to a prime-time Tyson than Tyson will ever be again.

Tua's problem, if indeed he has one outside of the imposing Lewis, is that he's never galvanized the general public the way Tyson has. Sure, boxing fans have known all about him since he blasted his way into their collective consciousness with crushing knockouts of John Ruiz (KO 1), Darroll Wilson (KO 1), David Izon (KO 12), Oleg Maskaev (KO 11), and Hasim Rahman (KO 10). For perceptive fans, even Tua's close 12-round decision loss to Ike Ibeabuchi didn't tarnish the Samoan slugger's reputation. It's just that the casual fan—always the main ingredient in a financial blockbuster—is too enamored with the Tyson traveling freak show to pay the proper attention to real fights and fighters. After all, Tua hasn't sexually assaulted anyone, been busted for drugs, or married an actress, which seems to be the very least a fighter needs to do these days in order to be recognized by mainstream America.

Of course, the situation is more complicated than that, and involves the lack of boxing on free TV, the fight game's current status as little more than a cult sport, and all the other state-of-the-game laments you've heard before. But the bottom line is that whereas the mere thought of Lewis-Tyson is enough to send Joe Six Pack into a tizzy of anticipation, Lewis-Tua produces little more than the inevitable "David Who-a?" response. And that's a damned shame because this one could be memorable for all the right reasons.

If Tua, 37-1 (32), brings a negative into the Lewis fight it is the itinerary of stiffs he's been bowling over since gaining the number-one spot in the IBF ratings with his controversial stoppage of Rahman in December '98. The most recent of these hapless victims was former WBA cruiserweight titlist Robert Daniels, who was sent packing in the third round of Tua's final tuneup, July 21 in Las Vegas. Prior to Daniels, Gary Bell, Shane Sutcliffe, and Obed Sullivan were sacrificed in one, two, and one rounds, respectively.

From a business point of view, such an easy schedule makes perfect sense, and, to a degree, it has kept Tua reasonably sharp, if not always svelte. But when you compare Tua's turkey shoot to Lewis' diet of Holyfield (a double portion), Michael Grant, and Frans Botha, it's obvious

who's been fighting at the higher level the past few years.

Let's not forget that while Botha was a prohibitive longshot, the previously undefeated Grant was given a decent chance of springing an upset, at least until Lewis landed his first punch. But even Botha, who had never before been dominated so thoroughly as he was by Lewis, was many notches above the wretched quartet of Bell, Sutcliffe, Sullivan, and Daniels. It should also be remembered that Lewis dispensed with both of his most recent challengers in a ruthlessly expedient fashion, which is exactly what a dominant world champion is supposed to do to the lesser lights on his calendar.

True, Tua may prove to be as big a disappointment as Grant, but the hunch here is that he will provide Lewis with a much more compelling argument. Essentially, the fight matches a short, explosive slugger against a tall, calculating boxer-puncher. How it unfolds depends more on Lewis' mindset than anything else, and it will be interesting to see if his quick blowouts of Grant and Botha will encourage him to be

HARD-HITTING HOMECOMING

A lot has happened to Lennox Lewis since he last fought in the land of his birth—most of it good. But boxing economics and the memory of that bleak night in September 1994, when he lost the WBC heavyweight title to Oliver McCall at Wembley Arena, transformed Lewis into a road warrior. The enigmatic Englishman swore he would not fight in Britain again until he was the undisputed heavyweight champion, and lived up to his end of the bargain by unifying the title against Evander Holyfield in November '99. And even though the moronic WBA has subsequently stripped him of its jaded emblem of office, Lewis entered the ring at the London Arena for his bout with Frans Botha as both the widely recognized heavyweight champion of the world and 1999's British Sports Personality of the Year.

As has often been his custom in recent years, the dreadlock-wearing champion of Jamaican heritage made his entrance accompanied by Bob Marley's "Crazy Baldheads," which wasn't quite as appropriate for the close-cropped Botha as it was the shaven-skulled Holyfield, but Lewis chased him "outta the yard" far more forcefully than he had evicted "The Real Deal." The normally sturdy South African was dispatched 2:39 into the second round, the victim of one of the most devastating combinations Lewis, 37-1-1 (29), has ever delivered.

After ducking between the ropes to rapturous applause from the crowd of almost 12,000, Lewis continued to groove to the reggae rhythms until referee Larry O'Connell (England) called the fighters to ring center for final prefight instructions. Once the opening bell sounded, however, Lewis turned Botha into his own personal percussion section, pounding him like no other opponent had ever pounded "The White Buffalo" before.

Lewis, 250, took a minute or so to find the range, and for a fleeting moment, it seemed like Botha, 236, might have figured out a way to stay away from the champ's destructive arsenal. Then, midway into the round, Lewis' right was introduced to Botha's chin, and the challenger did an involuntary deep knee bend and staggered backward. A few more moderate rights hit home before the bell, but nothing as spectacular as what was in store for Botha the following round.

The final minute of the second round was ticking down when Lewis, 34, jabbed his adversary into the ropes and unleashed a short right to the temple. The blow jolted Botha, 31, and he slumped forward at the waist, directly into the path of Lewis' followup left hook. The hook smashed into his face and teed-up the

Over and out: Lewis bombs Botha through the ropes

PHOTOS BY PHIL COLE/ALLSPORT

already dazed fighter's head for a pulverizing right that sent him sprawling headfirst through the ropes, his hindquarters sticking up in the air in the most undignified manner.

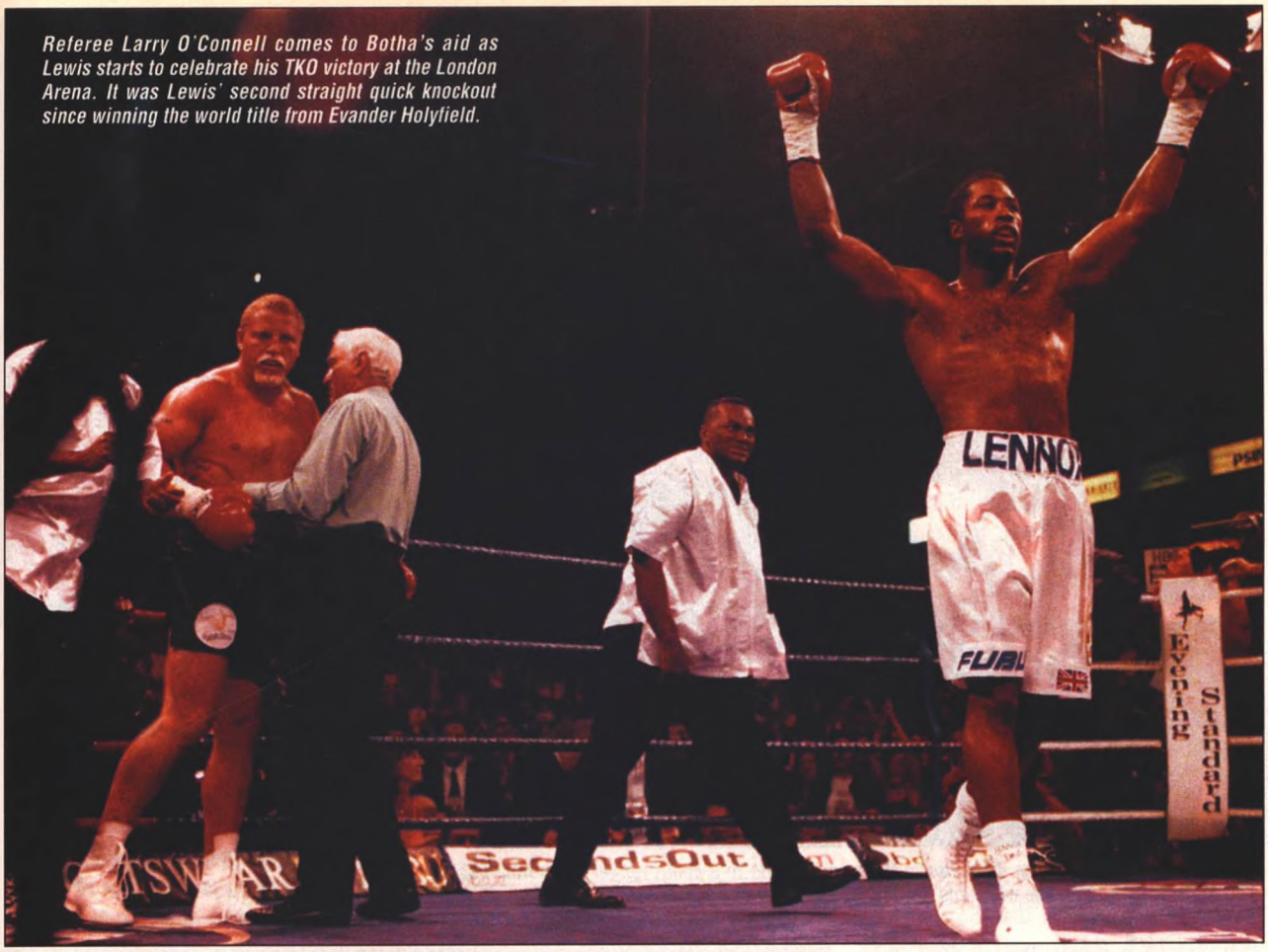
Somehow, the groggy but courageous Botha, 40-3-1 (31), managed to drag himself erect inside of the count, but after a long look into his glazed eyes, O'Connell called a halt.

"You've just seen a glimpse of what I've been seeing for five years," said Lewis' trainer, Emanuel Steward, who has long claimed that the world had yet to see his man at his destructive best.

All in all, it was a highly satisfying homecoming, and also quite possibly the last opportunity for Lewis' countrymen to see him fight in the U.K., as it's virtually impossible for British venues to match the multimillion-dollar site fees provided by American casinos.

Television: HBO
Promoter: Panix
(7-15-00)

—NC



Referee Larry O'Connell comes to Botha's aid as Lewis starts to celebrate his TKO victory at the London Arena. It was Lewis' second straight quick knockout since winning the world title from Evander Holyfield.

PHOTO BY JOHN GICHIGI/ALLSPORT

equally aggressive against Tua. Naturally, nothing would make Tua happier than a reckless assault by the champion, as the challenger's chances of outboxing Lewis are negligible. But with the kind of kayo power Tua carries in his left hook, he can bring down any heavyweight alive. Of course, Lewis knows this, too, and is too smart to underestimate the danger.

Much has been made of the relative heights of the pair. Lewis is a towering 6'5", while the tank-like Tua claims to be 5'10", but that's a liberal assessment that must have included the sawed-off Samoan's latest hair style, which sticks straight up from his scalp at least three inches. But regardless of Tua's actual height, the significant disparity between them has led to conflicting interpretations. Tua backers find comfort in the belief that Lewis has an easier time with tall opponents than he has with short ones, and point to his success against elongated foes such as Henry Akinwande and Grant as evidence. Those who embrace this flimsy theory believe that Lewis will find it more difficult to land his powershots against a squat target. And while there may be a thin slice of validity to this contention, don't tell Botha, whose head was at an unusually low altitude when the second punch of the three-punch combination that ended his title bid plowed into his face.

Conversely, Lewis could elect to use his considerable height advantage to stay on the outside and box, much the same way he did against Holyfield. Few heavyweights of the champion's imposing proportions have made as intelligent use of

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Tua tuned up for his shot at Lewis with an easy third-round knockout of Robert Daniels. The former WBA cruiserweight champ was never in the fight, and was down three times before being rescued.

PHOTO BY ANTHONY NESTE/HBO

Left hook to the rescue: Tua drills Hasim Rahman en route to a controversial come-from-behind TKO in December 1998. The win made Tua the IBF's number-one contender.

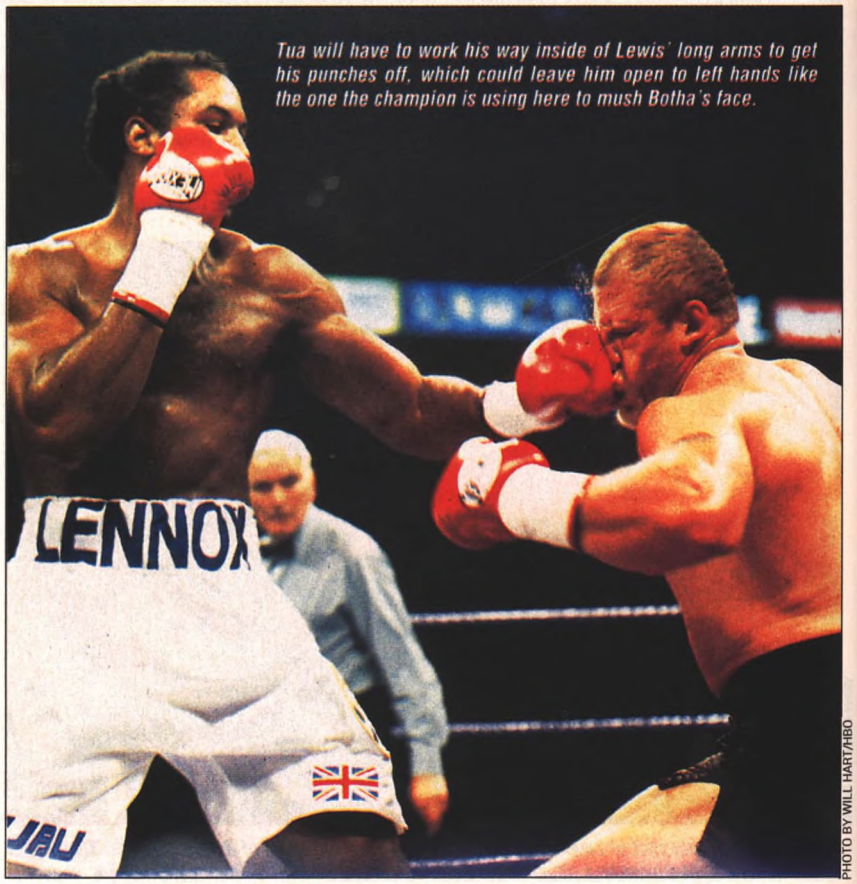
their height as Lewis, who, according to his trainer, Emanuel Steward, knows how to "fight tall." Moreover, if the Lewis-Tua bout degenerates into a tactical bore, it will be because Lewis is successful at keeping Tua on the end of his left jab, just as he did Holyfield.

There are, however, several significant differences between Holyfield and Tua, especially at this stage of their careers. The most meaningful are Tua's youth and intensity. Commander Vander was pretty much a spent force by the time he fought Lewis and was unable to keep a sustained attack going for very long. But even at his reduced capacity, "The Real Deal" managed to have Lewis in a spot of difficulty in the third round of their infamous first fight and in the seventh round of the rematch. With a fresh, young puncher like Tua in his face, it's unlikely Lewis will be able to keep the fight at the controlled pace he employed throughout most of the two Holyfield fights.

Tua is also the hardest hitter Lewis has confronted as a pro. Yes, Razor Ruddock, Andrew Golota, Shannon Briggs, Tommy Morrison, Oliver McCall, and Holyfield could all bang to one degree or another, but none of them had such awesome one-shot knockout power as Tua. This alone makes him an exceedingly dangerous challenger, but when you also consider that, unlike many fighters, Tua carries his power into the late rounds, things become even more intriguing.

Although they were perceived as deficits at the time, the fact that Tua was forced to come from behind to beat Izon, Maskaev, and Rahman adds another dimension to his game. Even if Lewis runs up a seemingly overwhelming lead on the scorecards, viewers are advised not to make a beer run. Tua's wicked punch will keep him in the hunt right up until the final bell rings—providing it lasts that long.

The challenger's chin is another plus. He's never been down and unblinkingly withstood the best shots of the aforementioned trio of Izon, Maskaev, and Rahman. While none of them are in Lewis' league as a puncher, they are all heavy-handed enough to have won the vast majority of their fights inside the distance. But undoubtedly the greatest testament to the durability of Tua's jaw was the 12 electrifying rounds of give-and-take he endured



Tua will have to work his way inside of Lewis' long arms to get his punches off, which could leave him open to left hands like the one the champion is using here to mush Botha's face.

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

A win that in retrospect may be Tua's most noteworthy was his kayo of Oleg Maskaev in '97. The Russian's subsequent emergence as a top contender has made Tua look that much more deserving.

LEWIS vs. TUA: STAFF PICKS

Nigel Collins: Lewis W 12

"We can expect some fireworks along the way, but it stands to reason that if Hasim Rahman and Oleg Maskaev can outbox Tua, so can Lewis. But whereas Rahman and Maskaev were stopped late after building commanding leads, Lewis will fight intelligently enough to emerge a clear-cut points winner after a riveting encounter."

Eric Raskin: Lewis W 12

"Like a lot of great offensive fighters, Tua looks spectacular against weak opposition and mediocre against anyone capable of standing up to him. His power makes him a constant threat, but his openings will be rare because he'll be so preoccupied fending off Lewis' attack. I wouldn't be surprised if Lewis becomes the first to put Tua on the canvas en route to a wide decision win."

Joe Santoliquito: Lewis KO 10

"I see Tua coming at Lewis deploying the same strategy that Michael Grant tried, with only slightly more success. Tua will get inside and hurt Lewis early on, but Lewis will adjust and start keeping Tua away with the jab. By the late rounds, Tua will be fatigued, and Lewis will sense this. By the ninth and 10th, Tua will be spent, leaving Lewis with an easy target to put away."

Jeff Ryan: Lewis KO 4

"Poor Tua. He waits forever for a title shot, and when it finally comes, it's at precisely the wrong moment. Lewis has found a rhythm, and his blowouts of Grant and Botha have boosted his confidence and revived a long dormant killer instinct. Tua's too small and Lewis is too in-tune right now to make this one a classic. Lewis by TKO."

William Dettloff: Lewis W 12

"Tua has the punch, the chin, and the durability to seriously threaten Lewis. But against every higher caliber fighter he's faced who could move a little and jab—Oleg Maskaev, David Izon, Hasim Rahman—he struggled and was outboxed before his power bailed him out. Lewis will build an early lead, survive Tua's late rally, and hang on to take a close, unpopular decision."

against Ibeabuchi. And although the now-incarcerated Nigerian emerged the decision winner, the fight was as close as it was torrid.

But in our enthusiasm for the challenger let's not forget that, except for his first fight with McCall, Lewis has always found a way to win, even if two of the three judges didn't see it that way after his scandalous draw with Holyfield. Make no mistake about it: Lewis is the deserving favorite. He's bigger, more versatile, and more experienced versus world-class competition. If his right hand isn't quite the nuclear weapon that Tua's left hook is, the margin of difference is so slight, it's essentially inconsequential. We shouldn't discount the likelihood that Lewis will catch Tua rushing in with a leather-encased warhead of his own, because an abrupt knockout either way is well within the realm of possibility, which is one of the main things that makes it such a fun fight in the first place.

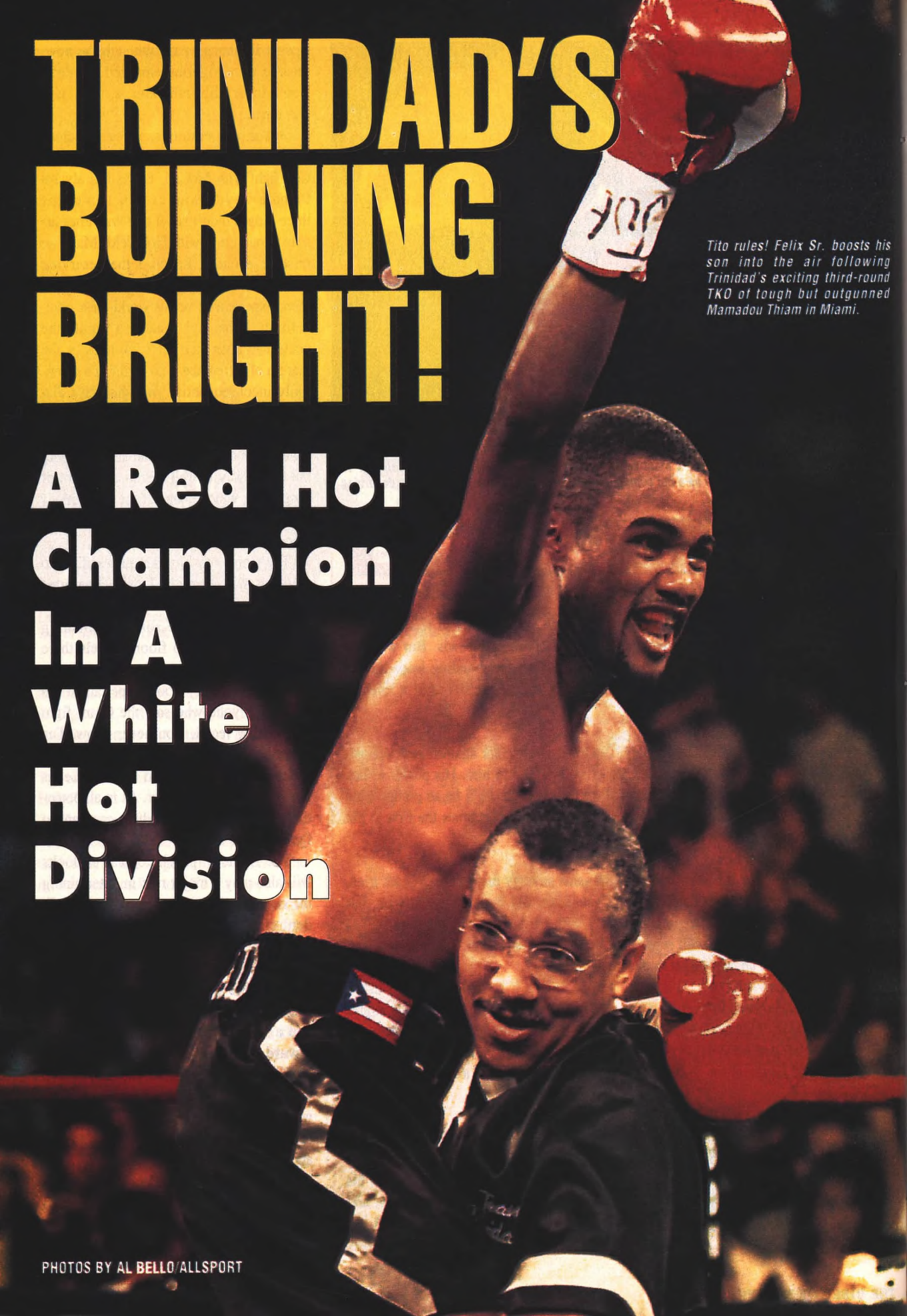
Tua's only tenable fight plan will be to work his way inside of Lewis' long arms and blast away for all he's worth, most likely with the same sort of punishing uppercuts he used to floor Daniels three times inside of three rounds. But Lewis has developed a pretty good uppercut of his own, as anyone who saw the Grant fight will readily recall. You never know, Tua might not find things totally to his liking in the trenches, if and when he lures Lewis into an up-close encounter. As in all potentially good fights, the anything-can-happen factor will be at work.

The fighters' psychological outlooks will also play a major role in determining the outcome. Lewis is a proud and confident champion, a man who has had to overcome a lot of adversity in order to punch his way to the top of the boxing world. He's grown accustomed to the cynical attitude that most of the media and a majority of the fans have shown toward him throughout his career, and will be eager to prove the naysayers wrong yet again. Tua hails from ancient warrior stock, and will hold back nothing in order to live up to his rich Samoan ancestry.

Together, they should make a helluva fight—maybe even one good enough to make people forget about Tyson, at least for a little while. ■

TRINIDAD'S BURNING BRIGHT!

A Red Hot Champion In A White Hot Division



Tito rules! Felix Sr. boosts his son into the air following Trinidad's exciting third-round TKO of tough but outgunned Mamadou Thiam in Miami.

PHOTOS BY AL BELLO/ALLSPORT

By Johnnie Whitehead

The kind of emotion Felix "Tito" Trinidad generated in his recent visit to Miami is usually reserved for religious leaders, heads of state, or teen idols. That the famous Florida city was in an uproar of Elian-esque proportions about something positive was a refreshing change. And over a boxer, no less.

Trinidad and this one-time jewel of a city are polar opposites, yet in an odd way are a perfect match. The local government here is so corrupt and stuck in the gutter—a mayoral election was recently overturned because of voter fraud—that it could be mistaken for a boxing sanctioning body. But Trinidad brought a sense of pride and decency, elevating a region whose population is more than 50 percent Latin and Caribbean.

Trinidad is all that's good about sport, and if you could smell what he was cooking at American Airlines Arena on July 22, you could understand what the commotion was all about. Puerto Rican greats Wilfredo Gomez, Wilfred Benitez, and Edwin Rosario had their moments, but their flames burned out too soon. The blaze that is Trinidad, however, is 38 fights strong and showing no signs of being extinguished. His dismantling of mandatory challenger Mamadou Thiam to retain the WBA super welterweight title was expected, but there was something in the air that may have even caught the suits at HBO by surprise.

More than 15,000 fans (12,506 paid) packed the arena to witness a bout that all along suggested little in terms of competitiveness or suspense. While Thiam, 33-2 (30), had a credible record and put up a brave performance, the outcome was never in doubt. The fact that such a large and festive crowd turned out to watch a forgone conclusion says a lot about Trinidad's drawing power in this part of the country.

Things are different for Trinidad now. No more feuds with his promoter to hold him back. No more neglect or toiling on the undercards of bigger yet less-talented fighters. Now, the pride of Puerto Rico has a five-fight deal with HBO, which considers him one of its "big five," along with Lennox Lewis, Naseem Hamed, Oscar De La Hoya, and Roy Jones.

Trinidad's appeal, however, is somewhat different than, say, De La Hoya's, a fighter to whom he's often compared. "The Golden Boy" has movie star looks, a million-dollar smile, a record deal, and is just as likely to appear in the next issue of *Tiger Beat* as he is in THE RING.

Trinidad is a no-nonsense individual, and it carries over to what you see in the ring. When it comes to boxing, it's all or nothing. There's never a middle ground. When Miami Heat center Alonzo Mourning realized Trinidad was in town, he politely requested that the champ toss up the game-opening jump ball at the NBA star's annual charity game. Mourning

PHOTO BY ANTHONY NESTE/HBO

Trinidad's left hand was once again his major weapon, as he made good use of both hooks and uppercuts to wobble mandatory challenger Thiam in the opening round. Before the end of the first round, Trinidad's attack had caused Thiam's right eye to swell alarmingly.

Thiam took a pounding in the first round, but roared back in the second to give the more than 15,000 Trinidad fans in attendance a momentary scare when he landed a couple of flush punches.

wasn't asking Trinidad to play, but he knew even a cameo appearance would do wonders for attendance.

Not a chance, said father/trainer "Don" Felix Sr. His son has to stay focused on business. In order to reach his potential, he can't afford to get caught up in the trappings of being a celebrity. There's too much at stake in terms of dollars and cents—and history.

Puerto Rico has historically been extremely vocal and passionate about its fighters. If El Gran Campeon loses, so do the four million on the tiny island, and millions of others sprinkled throughout the States. And when you consider Hispanics comprise a big chunk of pay-per-view buys—Trinidad-De La Hoya was the highest grossing non-heavyweight fight in history—it has made Trinidad an even more attractive commodity. Add to that a fighting style that produces highlight-reel knockouts, and Trinidad seems like The Can't-Miss Kid.

"Tito is a special fighter," said Kery Davis, HBO Sports' vice president of programming. "You can get star power from a number of different things. Oscar De La Hoya is very good looking and is charismatic. Tito is a good-looking kid as well, but in terms of a North American audience, he doesn't quite have that same appeal. But he has something special in the ring. As long as that translates, Tito Trinidad can be as big a star as anybody in the sport. Roberto Duran didn't speak English, but the way he fought spoke volumes."

Tito did just that versus Thiam. As hatchet jobs go, this one was textbook. Thiam, of Besancon, France, only had one gear—forward—which is probably the best way to move in order to have a chance against Trinidad. The champion is not effective fighting in reverse, and his sometimes-clumsy footwork doesn't allow him to move with enough fluidity to always get out of harm's way. Problem is, you have to navigate a mine field to make that strategy work. And when you don't use angles and just walk straight in like Thiam did, well, that's foolish bravery.

Thiam didn't disguise his intentions, and Trinidad only met him with a few range-finding jabs to start. But as soon as the chiseled challenger began to get bolder and throw harder, Trinidad began to speak

Trinidad had regained control of the fight by the end of the second round, and really pounded Thiam in the third, finally forcing the French-African to capitulate.

poetry with his educated left hand—an uppercut and then a hook, a hook and then an uppercut all cracked home. And just like that, the transplanted Senegalese was forced to do a two-step as he stumbled backward, his right eye suddenly looking like a chemically enhanced tomato.

But make no mistake, Thiam was no tomato can. He didn't come to lay down and collect a payday. In fact, he never hit the canvas. The challenger came roaring back in the second and continued to back up Trinidad, and caused a stir when he caught the champion with a left hook. Shortly afterward, a flush right from Thiam drew a nervous response from the audience, which knew all about their man's proclivity for hitting the canvas in the second round. Thiam, on the other hand, knew he was living on borrowed time, and was going for broke.

"The way Trinidad fights in the ring doesn't need to be translated," said Davis. "His fighting style is extremely exciting. The other thing is he's vulnerable. He gets knocked down, but gets back up and knocks the other guy out. That's what people love to see."

Not this time. Trinidad stayed close, rode out Thiam's flurry, and responded with Old Faithful—his murderous left hook. Thiam lunged wildly with a sweeping hook of his own, but Tito rocked back to slip it and then unloaded his version, which was much swifter and more compact. Just like that, whatever thunder Thiam had left was sapped. By round's end, he found himself dangling on the ropes courtesy of two more uppercuts, and probably wondering how such a rail-thin, baby-faced kid could be such a devastating puncher.

Thiam tried gallantly in the third, but the eye injury was too much, and even his forehead was lopsided from the grotesque swelling. Maybe against any other 154-pounder this night, Thiam would have stood a chance. But even HBO skeptic Larry Merchant didn't argue when one final uppercut forced Thiam to turn his back and referee Jorge Alonso to step in to stop it at the 2:48 mark of the third. When a thumper such as Trinidad lands 61 percent of his powerpunches (according to CompuBox), and you can't see his left hand coming, you might as well wear a blindfold and light up a cigarette.

Next up for Trinidad could be IBF counterpart Fernando Vargas, pictured en route to a decision win over Ike Quartey last December. But first, Vargas would have to have beaten mandatory challenger Ross Thompson in a bout that was to have taken place after press time.

"The fact is Mamadou Thiam is a very strong fighter," said Felix Sr. "The difference was he was fighting Tito Trinidad."

After conquering his second junior middleweight this year, Trinidad is looking for bigger challenges. A December showdown with Fernando Vargas is in the offing in what appears to be a pick-'em fight.

"It can be a difficult fight, if I make it difficult," said Trinidad.

You'd think Trinidad's career-long winning streak has to stop at some point, especially as the competition gets bigger and better. But that's assuming that he's an ordinary fighter.

"I say ride him until he loses," said former Showtime boxing analyst Ferdie Pacheco, who has followed Trinidad for most of his career. "Bottom line is, this guy gets it done no matter what. You can nitpick all you want about his chin or whatever, but he's hot right now. He's the guy. He's incredible."

Trinidad and Vargas find themselves in a peculiar position. After so many years of jockeying for position in the De La Hoya sweepstakes, hoping to be tossed a bone so they'll get the attention and money they so badly craved, the WBC and IBF 154-pound champions no longer need him. They've got each other, and each is expected to earn in the neighborhood of $7-million for their showdown.

Trinidad, 38-0 (31), has conquered three Olympic gold medalists in Pernell Whitaker, De La Hoya, and David Reid, who had just 14 fights under his belt when he was picked apart in February. Reid won America's only boxing gold medal at the '96 Games and took a big risk in challenging a veteran such as Tito. What started out beautifully for the Philadelphian—Reid outboxed him, backed him up, and scored a knockdown in the third round—turned ugly the moment "The American Dream" was clipped with a left hook in the seventh. Things never were the same afterward, as Reid went down four times in all and lost a lopsided unanimous decision.

Vargas, 19-0 (17), cautions us not to expect a repeat of that scenario when he fights Trinidad. Vargas was on the Olympic team with Reid and, like Reid, he's a puppy when it comes to professional experience, particularly when compared with a veteran

(Continued on page 64)

THE OTHER KLITSCHKO

Wladimir's Ready To Do What Vitaly Couldn't

By Brian Doogan

Lennox Lewis' dignified yet deadly destruction of Frans Botha did more than restore order to the anarchic, apocryphal areas of heavyweight boxing. In 5 minutes and 39 seconds of frighteningly dispensed violence at a turned-on London Arena, Britain's undisputed world champion sent out the clearest possible message that unruly, underachieving, and even uninhibited inhabitants of his domain should be prepared for an unpleasantly prompt removal from the landscape. Insurgents, be they out of their depth or out of control, will simply not be tolerated.

The 34-year-old Olympic gold medalist from the 1988 Seoul Games is warming to his responsibilities as a ruler. The ghost of Oliver McCall, whose right-hand hammer blow at Wembley Arena six years ago shook Lewis' belief in his invincibility, is being exorcised with every enactment of his re-established ruthlessness.

Wladimir Klitschko, just 24 and a successor to Lewis as Olympic super heavyweight champion at the 1996 Games in Atlanta, might well be advised to keep knocking over opponents and mark time until the self-proclaimed "pugilistic specialist" at the top of the tree decides to pursue alternative challenges, rather like the world's top golfers could be forgiven for avoiding those tournaments that attract the entry of Tiger Woods.

But the younger of the Hercules-like brothers from Kiev could challenge Lewis by March 2001. Unlike Botha, who very quickly resembled a man being summoned to the gallows once exposed to the heavyweight champion's pulverizing power, Klitschko is adamant that not only does he want the fight, but he will not be turned into a compliant victim, like "The White Buffalo," Andrew Golota, and Razor Ruddock were before him.

"I think about this fight all the time. I'm already visualizing it in my mind. I am ready now," said European champion Klitschko, who stopped American Monte "Two Guns" Barrett in the seventh round immediately before a fired-up Lewis visited terror in Botha's body and soul. "Have I a problem with climbing into the same ring as Lennox Lewis? No. I have no problem with that. I am not afraid. Why would I be?

"I have been in this business nine years now, amateur and professional boxing. I want to fight the big guys, Lewis, Evander Holyfield, or Mike Tyson. Within the next year, I want to be champion. I'm not so young that I'm too young. I am ready for the big fights now."

Klitschko, the mandatory challenger for the WBA title, has rebounded strongly from his only defeat in 35 predominantly crushing contests, 32 opponents of the 6'7", 244-pound Germany-based Ukrainian having been dispatched onto the early bus home. Ross Puritty of the United States inflicted that solitary setback in December 1998, a loss exacerbated by the fact that Klitschko was engaging in his first professional bout in his hometown, Kiev. Inexperience was the telling factor as the then-22-year-old ran alarmingly out of gas before his trainer, Fritz Sdunek, stepped into the ring to pull his man out in the 11th round. Significantly, Puritty balked at the offer of a rematch that the

PHOTO BY SUMIO YAMADA

Monte Barrett had no answer for Klitschko's powerpunches, and was floored five times before the fight was halted in the seventh round. The bout was part of the Lewis-Botha undercard at the London Arena.

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Klitschko's left hook was a major weapon against Barrett. The Ukrainian giant doesn't get his full body weight behind the hook the way the best American fighters do, but he's so strong it's still an extremely dangerous punch.

PHOTO BY EZRA SHAW/ALLSPORT

Klitschko rams a left jab into David Bostice's face en route to a second-round TKO at Madison Square Garden. It was Klitschko's first appearance at the fabled New York City arena. In the main event, Lennox Lewis knocked out Michael Grant.

Klitschko camp hoped would take place on March 18 at Alsterdorfer Sporthalle in Hamburg, the city where Wladimir, like big brother Vitaly, is happily domiciled.

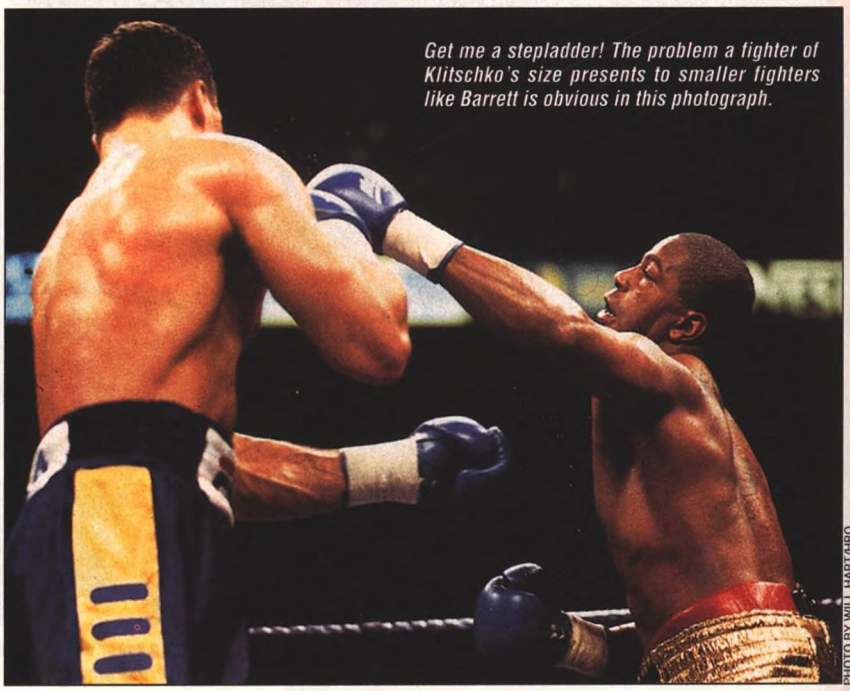
"It's very unfortunate that Puritty refused to fight me," Klitschko said, anxious to set the record straight, but not hooked on revenge. "We still have some unfinished business. But, that fight aside, I have different aims than Puritty. I want to become world champion. That will prove I have moved well beyond Ross Puritty."

How far beyond is the question. His capture of the European belt was convincing. Axel Schulz, who challenged three times for various versions of the world title, suffered such a one-sided beating that he promptly retired. But against Barrett, whom he put down with a left hook and follow-up fusillade in the opening round, there was much laboring by Klitschko before he finally finished his night's work. A right hand had Barrett down again in the fourth, but it was not until round seven that Klitschko finally forced the stoppage with three knockdowns, the last leaving Barrett in a bloody heap and convincing referee Richie Davies to make a belated intervention at the 2:42 mark. Klitschko's fast hands had been in evidence only in sporadic bursts.

"Wladimir showed he is a hard hitter, but he tends to wait a lot before turning his punches loose and doesn't seem to like being hit very much," said Harold Lederman, the respected former fight judge who worked the fight as "Unofficial Official" for HBO. "But his long arms and hard jab give him a big advantage over most heavyweights."

Klitschko, too, was concerned by his display.

"I hope it wasn't boring," he said during a candid conversation four days later. "Monte Barrett is not such an easy opponent [the 29-year-old from Queens, New York, had won 23 of his previous 24 pro fights, 14 by



Get me a stepladder! The problem a fighter of Klitschko's size presents to smaller fighters like Barrett is obvious in this photograph.

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

knockout]. He has an elusive style like Chris Byrd [who beat Vitaly in Berlin earlier this year when the elder Klitschko suffered a shoulder injury and could not continue after nine rounds]. But the number of rounds I was able to get in will have been good experience. I waited, and then came my explosion.

"The end is very important. If the end is good, then all is good, and the end of this fight was not so bad."

There is an inherent optimism and fresh outlook on life about Klitschko that can be infectious. Meeting people, to him, is like going to the theater. A drama is about to unfold.

"People are like books," he said. "They have a story waiting to be told."

A voracious appetite for books as well—the last heavyweight this was said about was ultimately found to have a greater craving for opponents' ears—has brought Wladimir to within 18 months study of completing his doctorate in sports science at the University of Kiev, an honor 29-year-old Vitaly received recently. Intelligence is clearly in no short supply.

Neither are alluring offers from an army of female admirers, so plentiful they would have worn out Casanova. It is not unusual for ladies' underwear to be mailed to him, along with the address and telephone number of an owner who would desire nothing more than for Klitschko to turn up on her doorstep, garments in hand and no plans for the night.

"Many ladies, it appears, are interested in me," he said, a satisfied smile on his face. "They want to meet me and maybe have marriage plans for the future! I don't let that distract me, however. I enjoy it, but I don't let it get in the way."

His enjoyment of life to the max has resulted in outdoor pursuits like snowboarding and flying helicopters. The Internet is also a major interest.

"Boxing is my life, but it is not all of my life," he declared unashamedly. "I'm an artist. Everybody is an artist, I think. It is very important to make the most of the gifts you have. When an artist performs well, people have fun, and fun is important in life."

So, too, is a healthy attitude to work and discipline, qualities neither Wladimir or Vitaly lack, having been brought up by a strong mother, Nadia, and a father, Wladimir, who is a general in the Ukrainian air force.

PHOTOS BY FRANK VITUCCI

Klitschko could get a shot at heavyweight champion Lewis (top) by March 2001, but might risk a fight with Chris Byrd (above) first. Byrd scored an upset TKO over Wladimir's older brother, Vitaly, in April 2000.

"I might also have gone to military school—at one stage I had the ambition of becoming a doctor—but the sports school was close by and I began to do well there, particularly in boxing," revealed Klitschko, who displayed talent at tennis, basketball, and judo as well. "Another aspect to it was that seeing other countries was difficult; travel to other countries at that time was not really allowed. I always wanted to see other countries, and I could do it with sport. That was an incentive to do well."

Another was the success of Vitaly, who claimed a silver medal at the Olympics in Barcelona in 1992 and has constantly set the standards for his kid brother.

"We have a healthy competition and a good understanding," said Wladimir. "I have tried to be better than him all my life. My brother is a very good example for me. Automatically, I try to be better, and that's good for me."

But Wladimir is an altogether different, more effusive personality. He enjoys the fashion world, in which he has friends who are successful in Paris. His social life is an active one, though he has never indulged in drink or drugs or extravagant parties till dawn. Vitaly is married to Natasha and has two boys, Egor and Daniel. Wladimir, you sense, might even be his third boy, Vitaly undoubtedly being a father figure.

But it is Wladimir who is emerging forcefully from his brother's shadow, confirmed by Lewis' promoter, Panos Eliades, announcing he has an offer from Universum-Box Promotion to make Lewis-Klitschko next year.

"We can make the fight in March, here in London," Eliades said.

It was something Klitschko said, however, that made a lasting impression. He recalled that at 10 years of age he read *Robinson Crusoe*, the famous novel by Daniel Defoe about a man who survived being shipwrecked on a desert island, five times.

"I liked it and I wanted to go to another country, to look at other people," he said. "That was my dream."

He is undoubtedly going places now, and people are looking at him as he nears his dream of being crowned heavyweight champion of the world. ■

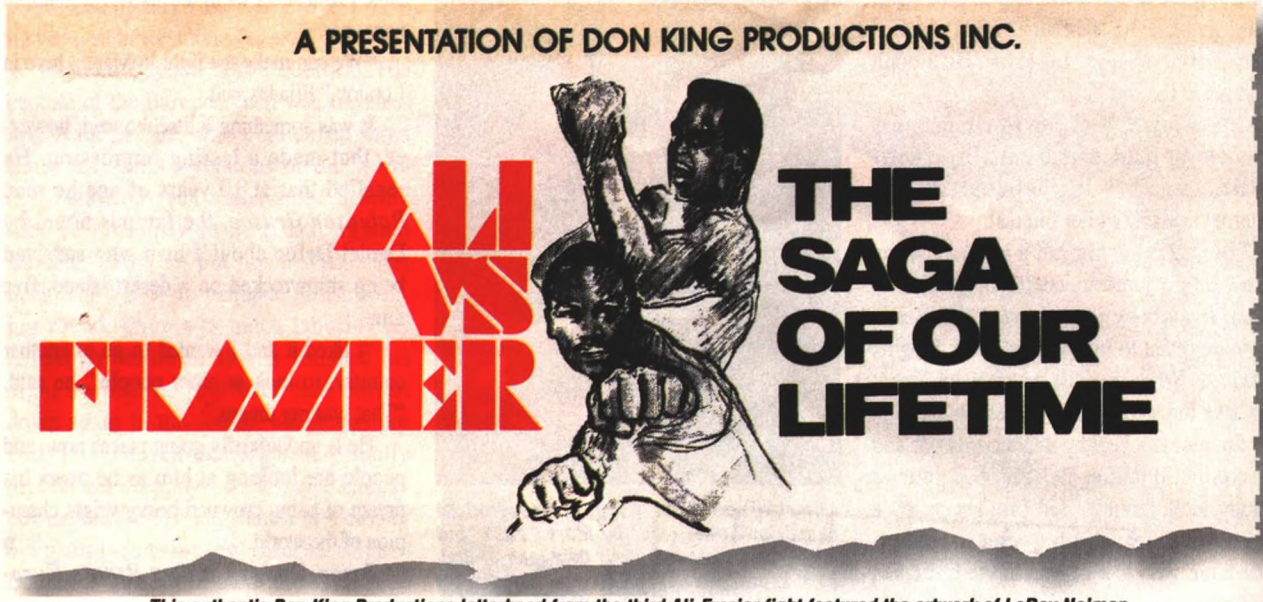
Brian Doogan is THE RING'S European correspondent.

25 Years Later... MANILA STILL REMEMBERS THE THRILLA

By Ted Lerner

The modern-day boxing explorer, searching for signs of the pugilistic greatness that once graced the shores of the teeming and sultry Philippine capital of Manila, finds neither monuments, murals, museums, nor videos on sale to commemorate the event so perfectly dubbed "The Thrilla In Manila." Indeed none of these exist. Instead, the explorer merely finds a shopping mall.

Boxing and shopping may seem like two totally opposite activities, but with a little digging, it begins to make sense. The Muhammad Ali Mall in Quezon City, Metro Manila, sits exactly two blocks away from the Araneta Coliseum, the venue for The Thrilla back in 1975. Jorge Araneta, the owner of the Coliseum, had become quite friendly with Ali during his stay in the Philippines. He was in the process of building the Philippines' first shopping mall, which didn't yet have a name. It was the day after Ali had defeated Frazier via 14th-round TKO in the brutal heat of Manila.



This authentic Don King Productions letterhead from the third Ali-Frazier fight featured the artwork of LeRoy Neiman.

Ali lands a left to Frazier's head in what is considered by many to be the greatest heavyweight fight of all-time. The October and December 1975 covers of THE RING (below) emphasized the exotic locale of the fight.

"I invited Ali for lunch at my house," Araneta said. "His whole body was swollen up. I said, 'Champ, I'm going to name my shopping center in your honor.' It was a spur of the moment thing. He smiled and said, 'I'm coming back.'"

Sure enough, Ali returned to Manila a year later to help Araneta inaugurate the Muhammad Ali Mall. And he didn't charge one cent for the use of his name. These days, the mall is simply known as Ali Mall. And if you asked the crowds that traipse daily to its 200 air-conditioned stores if they know why the mall is called the Ali Mall, nine out of 10 wouldn't have a clue.

This doesn't mean, however, that Filipinos don't care about the silver anniversary of the most famous sporting event ever held in their country. In fact, everyone who was around back then can still recall exactly where they were on the morning of October 1, 1975, when the larger-than-life drama between Ali and Frazier played out before the nation and millions around the world. But in the Philippines, drama is practically an everyday occurrence, and usually involves survival, which tends to push the 25th anniversary of a great boxing match to the far reaches of people's minds.

Fortunately, most of the Filipinos who were involved and closely associated with The Thrilla are still alive and happy to recall what took place in Manila 25 years ago. Their memories offer a wealth of fascinating insight into the fight, the fighters, and the event. It was the era when the Muhammad Ali road show was in full swing, a time when Ali was welcome in places where many heads of state were unwanted. The Philippines was ruled by Ferdinand Marcos, who was at the height of his power. Marcos had declared martial law in 1972, and for a while his heavy-handed tactics seemed to be working. The Philippine economy was booming, and there was relative peace and order.

Luis Tabuena was the chairman of the

Tabuena and government lawyer Roberto Reverente then went to New York to sign the deal. After 16 hours of negotiations at the Philippine consulate with Don King and Bob Arum, the contract was signed. The Thrilla In Manila was born.

While everyone agrees that Ali and Frazier complimented each other, together they were perfect for boxing crazy Filipinos. Unlike the other far-flung places where Ali fought during those years—Kinshasha, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur—Manila in the early-1970s was a true hotbed of boxing. Former junior lightweight champion Flash Elorde had already retired, but remained the country's biggest sports hero. Weekly fights in Manila drew 20,000 fans to watch solid international

country's sports governing body, the Games and Amusements Board, and he regularly attended international boxing conventions abroad. It was at one such convention in 1973 that Tabuena first heard about the idea for a big fight with Ali in Manila. By early '75, Ali and Frazier appeared on a collision course for a rubber match, and Tabuena wanted to bring the fight to Manila.

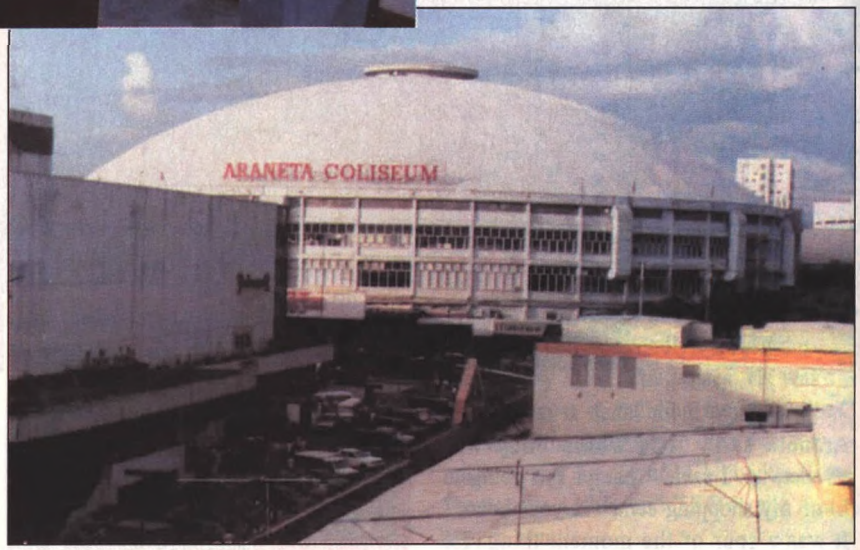
Marcos and his flamboyant wife, Imelda, were looking for big events to focus positive attention on the Philippines. So Tabuena did what any smart salesman would do. He approached the wife first. In a one-on-one with Imelda, Tabuena told the first lady exactly what she wanted to hear.

"I said, 'Ma'am, Manila will be known all over the world,'" Tabuena recently recalled for the first time in many years. "She liked that."

With the blessing of the wife, Tabuena went to see the president. He didn't have much convincing to do.

"The president was a big boxing fan," explained Tabuena. "I remember watching the Ali-Foreman fight in the Palace."

President Marcos, who watched all the big fights in his study, wasted no time in approving the idea. Tabuena received no money from the president, but when you have the backing of the big boss, everyone's eager to please. Tabuena tapped several big government agencies and private companies, all of whom readily anteed up.



PHOTOS BY TED LERNER

Jorge Araneta (top), owner of the Araneta Coliseum (middle), the venue for "The Thrilla In Manila," stands next to a scale model of his complex, which shows how it will look after upcoming renovations. Araneta is also the owner of the Ali Mall (bottom).

cards. On top of this, Ali and Frazier encompassed everything that the Filipino culture loves: Frazier, the hard-working, honest family man who came from nothing; Ali, the flamboyant, controversial, funny showman who also came from nothing and had it all.

The two arrived in Manila with their huge entourages in the middle of September and proceeded to give the country three weeks of pure entertainment and melodrama, culminating in their titanic war in the broiling heat that surpassed everyone's expectations. In return, the Philippines showered these two giants of the sport with their legendary hospitality. Approximately 4,000 people a day turned out at Manila's Folk Arts Theatre to watch them train. Invitations to swank parties, speaking engagements, and public appearances poured into both camps.

"The two were treated like royalty here," said Tabuena. "Both guys had a great time; they enjoyed themselves. They were very entertained by the hospitality of the Filipinos."

Ali held court at the Hilton Hotel where he stayed, chatting with reporters and fans on the hotel steps or in the coffee shop after his morning jog. Frazier, ensconced down the street at the Hyatt, also held lots of impromptu interviews and did lots of singing.

Ronnie Nathanielz worked for the government television and radio arm, and was given the assignment as Ali's press liaison. His task was to follow Ali everywhere he went and record everything he said. He practically lived with Ali for three straight weeks. Nathanielz, who today works as one of the Philippines' top television sports executives, remembers The Thrilla fondly.

"The event was not staged," Nathanielz recalled. "It just happened. There were no staged press conferences. The whole thing was very accessible. It was a time when boxing was not just business. Back then, boxing was still a sport."

The portrait of the champion in Manila, as recorded and remembered by Nathanielz, is that of the quintessential Ali. There was Ali the provocateur and clown, invading Frazier's training sessions. Once, Ali even sneaked up on the catwalk, letting out a bull ape yell and taunting Frazier while the thousands below ate it all up. Another day, Ali went to the Hyatt hotel and stood on the ground below Frazier's room holding a plastic toy gun and shouting, "Joe, come to the balcony. Gorilla, can you hear me? Gorilla, get out of Manila! I want you out tomorrow!"

PHOTO COURTESY OF LUIS TABUENA

Luis Tabuena, chairman of the Games and Amusement Board and one of the men most responsible for bringing the fight to Manila, shakes hands with Don King and Bob Arum following the signing of the contract at the Philippines consulate in New York City.

There was also Ali the quick wit. On a visit to Manila's Islamic Cultural Center, he was mobbed by thousands of fans. The crowd pushed and shoved, trying to get close to the champ, prompting The Greatest to grab a microphone.

"I am a Muslim," Ali told the throng. "I am your brother. I cannot shake everybody's hand, can't kiss everybody, because there are too many Muslims in the world. I know we are all equal, but because I am a champion, you must give me the respect and let me leave."

Then there was the Ali who lived on the edge. Ali and Frazier had been invited to make a courtesy call on the Marcos. The two fighters were making light banter with Marcos before the press when the doors to the study opened, and Imelda made her typical grand entrance into the room.

"I respect you now more so than I did at first," Ali said while nudging his elbow into the president's side. "Looking at your wife, I can say you are not a dumb man. You know how to pick 'em." Marcos, laughing, quipped back, "I can say that you are not far behind."

Marcos was referring to Ali's girlfriend, Veronica Porche, whom he thought was Ali's wife. The president then went ahead and introduced Veronica to Imelda as "Ali's wife." Nobody dared say anything. Nathanielz recalls with laughter what happened afterward.

"Ali's real wife, Belinda, was back in the States, and the next day she saw the pictures that came over the wires. And it says: 'Ali and his wife meeting the President and First lady.' Man, she hopped on the next plane and flew right to Manila. She got to the hotel and went straight up to his room and stormed in. I was there, and everybody scampered away and out of the room. Nobody dared talk to him about it. She left on the next plane."

The constant clowning, rumored womanizing, and the rift with his wife led to rumors that Ali was not training and wasn't in good shape. Nathanielz, though, said that this wasn't true.

"Ali clowned around in the ring for all the fans [at his public workouts]," Nathanielz said. "But his real training took place inside his private room in the back of the Folk Arts Theatre. He trained very hard."

Nathanielz said Ali would often confide in him, revealing a side of the champ much of the world never saw.

"He had a tremendous mind," said Nathanielz. "We talked about everything under the sun. He's a great storyteller, a gentleman. He was such an overwhelming

PHOTO COURTESY OF LUIS TABUENA

personality. He once said to me, 'Why is everything that's good white? Soap is white. Salt is white. Angels are white. Jesus is white. The President lives in the White House. Why can't he live in the Black House?'"

Eddie Alinea worked as Nathanielz' counterpart on the Frazier side, following Smokin' Joe wherever he went. The portrait painted of Frazier by Alinea is that of a very relaxed man, in tremendous shape, who knew exactly what he was doing. It's also interesting to note that, according to Alinea, Frazier wasn't at all bothered by Ali's shenanigans.

"I saw it all as a show," said Alinea, who now works as a sportswriter for the *Manila Times*. "They're both actors. Joe wanted to prove himself. He was very confident."

Alinea claims that while Ali may have been the star of the show, many Filipinos were really rooting for Frazier.

Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos, a big boxing fan, greets King at a reception in Malacanang prior to the fight (top). Before asking Marcos to host the fight, Tabuena won the approval of First Lady Imelda Marcos (above).

"Filipinos love underdogs," he said. "The money was for Ali. The sentiment was for Frazier."

Frazier often invited Alinea to dinner.

"He would eat, then sing, then rock and boogie on the dance floor," recalled Alinea. "He was a good singer. What touched me about Frazier was that he was a family man. He was always talking about his family, about Marvis and his daughters. He's a good, principled man, a clean living man."

Both Frazier and Ali reached out to the community, proving boxing can be one heck of a goodwill ambassador. Out of the hundreds of invitations they received, both Ali and Frazier agreed to grace—at different times, of course—the cornerstone laying of Flash Elorde's new Sports Center. The reason? As someone in the Ali camp said, "The boxing world is very small. If we don't look after our own, who will?"

PHOTO COURTESY OF EDDIE ALINEA

Eddie Alinea (center) talks with Denise Frenz, Frazier's secretary. Alinea was assigned to Frazier's camp as a publicist and became very close with "Smokin' Joe." Alinea now works as a sportswriter for the Manila Times.

Nathanielz recalled the time an elderly Muslim man came hobbling into the Hilton, and Ali wrote him a check for $25,000. Ali lectured at a Christian-Muslim brotherhood congress where over 8,000 people heard him speak about "the value and meaning of friendship." Ali called the Filipinos "the sweetest people on earth." Frazier loved them, too, especially their propensity for singing all the time.

The logistics of the fight were in the hands of Tabuena, who made sure he did things his way. He kept the choice of referee to himself, waiting until the day of the fight to announce his selection, much to the chagrin of King and Arum, who had brought their own refs.

"Nobody knew who was the referee," Tabuena said. "I was busy hiding it to avoid the pressure. It was a big surprise."

He picked Carlos Padilla, then an unknown outside of the Philippines.

"I wanted a Filipino who was handsome," said Tabuena laughing. "They think Filipinos are all monkeys. I wanted the world to see we have good Filipino referees and we're not monkeys. And look what happened to Carlos. He made it big in Las Vegas."

The Thrilla took place at 10:30 on the morning on October 1. More than 20,000 people were packed into the tortuously hot arena, dubbed The Philippine Coliseum for the fight. The nation, watching it live on television, came to a halt.

Look at a video of The Thrilla In Manila sometime, and you'll see something unique by today's boxing standards—simplicity. There was no hyped-up music accompanying the fighters to the ring. The Filipino ring announcer, Joe Cantada, made no mention of the WBC or the WBA. This was all by Tabuena's design.

"We had Ali and Frazier," he said. "The two biggest names in boxing fighting for the heavyweight championship of the world. Who needs all that other stuff?"

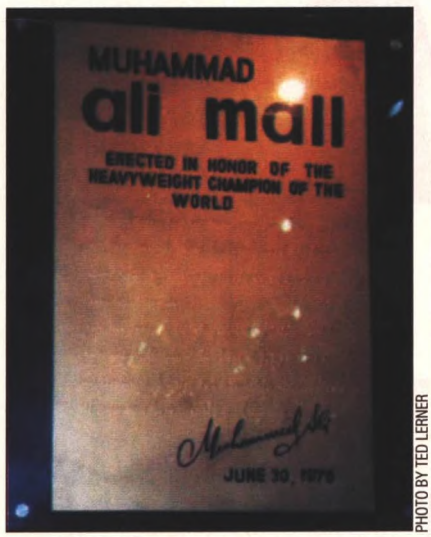


PHOTO BY TED LERNER

One of the few remaining mementos of The Thrilla is this plaque inside the Ali Mall. Ali returned to the Philippines the year after the fight for the grand opening of the shopping center.

Indeed it was that simple. The two warriors giving their all, digging deeper than anyone thought possible, leaving a piece of themselves in the city that cheered their every move. Today, a quarter of a century later, the memories of a classic that went off with nary a hitch brings smiles of satisfaction and remembrances of friendships made.

"For many years," said Araneta, "when I went to the States I used to see Ali. I consider him a valuable friend."

Nathanielz saw Ali in 1976 when the fighter returned for the opening of Araneta's Ali Mall. He didn't see him again until 1998 at the NBA All-Star game in New York, where Nathanielz was covering the game for Philippine television.

"I went across to where Ali was standing," he said. "When he saw me, he smiled a faint smile. He remembered. I had tears in my eyes."

"It's really something," said Tabuena, who is now retired. "A small tiny spot on the map to hold a world championship match as big as that was. Every time I go abroad, when I tell people I was the promoter of The Thrilla In Manila, they congratulate me."

The patrons at Manila's Ali Mall may hardly notice, but there's a lonely plaque on a bare wall by the entrance that captures perfectly the essence of The Thrilla In Manila. The caption on the plaque, now barely legible, speaks of not only a great fight, but also a great event, where professional boxing perhaps reached its highest heights. It was written by Muhammad Ali when he returned in 1976 for the mall dedication. He surely was speaking for Joe Frazier as well.

"Not only to give the best performance to the people, but to be a part of the struggles of the people, to be concerned with the progress of the people and to stand for the principles of peace, justice, and equality, to show that in a profession which is mainly known for brutality and blood, a man can have nobility and dignity." ■

Ted Lerner is a freelance writer and television commentator based in the Philippines.

Uncle Sam On The Ropes?

BOXING'S BALANCE OF POWER SHIFTS AWAY FROM THE U.S.A.

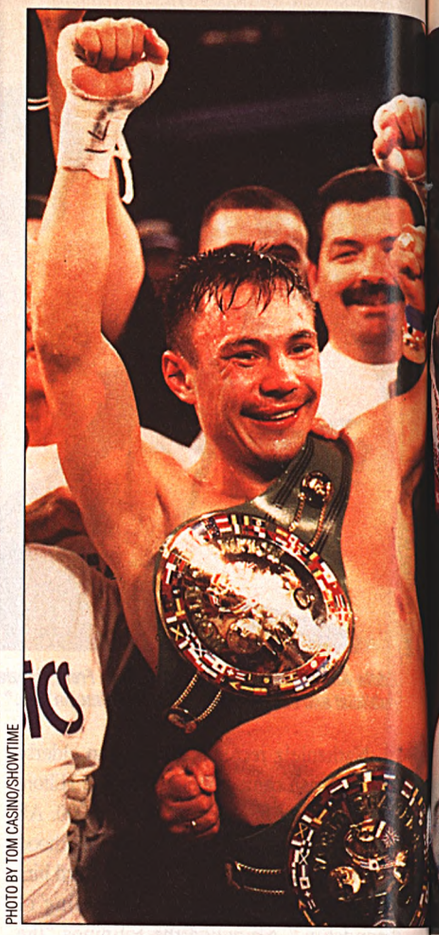


PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

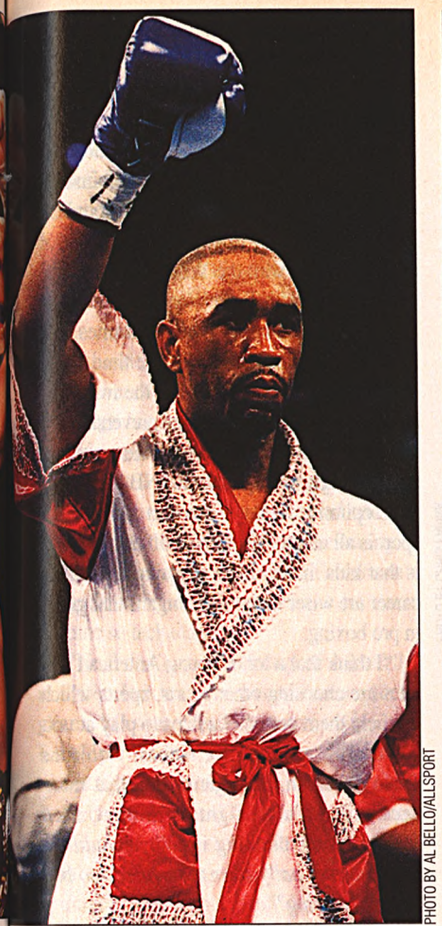


PHOTO BY AL BELLO/ALLSPORT

PHOTO BY JOHN GICHIGI/ALLSPORT

What happened to the Yanks? There were 29 non-Americans holding world titles as of press time, including (from left to right) Russian/Australian Kostya Tszyu, Cuban political exile Joel Casamayor, and Englishman Lennox Lewis.

By Dominic Calder-Smith

Boxing may have been legitimized by the ancient Greeks, and its rules cultured and sculpted by an English aristocrat. Realistically, however, professional prize fighting has always been viewed as an American sport. When the average man on the street—no matter whether that street happens to be in New York, London, or Berlin—is asked to say what comes to mind when he thinks about boxing, there's a good chance he'll run images of Las Vegas and two American fighters clashing for the world heavyweight title through his mind's eye.

Sure, other nations have had their heroes, but in the modern age, America has always been the heartland of boxing. The United States has consistently spawned more world champions and contenders than any other nation. Other countries had their occasional world-beaters, but the U.S. could always boast of these in abundance.

When France had Marcel Cerdan, America had Sugar Ray Robinson, Jake LaMotta, and Rocky Graziano. While Germany lauded Max Schmeling, America could turn to Jack Sharkey, James Braddock, Max Baer, and then the mighty Joe Louis.

Overseas successes were mere blips on the horizon. American superiority was a constant. But times have changed, and the picture has altered somewhat. Statistically at least, America isn't producing the number of world-class performers it once did, and despite the increased proliferation of weight classes, the number of Americans currently wearing a belt of one of the three major alphabet organizations (WBC, WBA, IBF) has actually dwindled rather than risen.

Of the 51 alphabet titles available in 1990, 22 were held by American boxers. Ten years later, only 19 of those 51 belts are currently worn by Americans—three of them by the same man, undisputed light heavyweight champion Roy Jones.

Comparing statistics from the days of Cerdan and Schmeling would be unfair of course, but even when held up against the performances of their predecessors from 10 years ago, the American fight factory seems to be going through something of a slump.

In 1990, THE RING ranked fighters in 15 weight divisions, from heavyweight down to flyweight. The split between American and non-American ranked fighters went right down the middle, with 50 percent of the fighters being Americans. Today, that figure has slipped to 36 percent.

That decrease, however, does need one important qualification. Since 1990, the two extra divisions included in THE RING ratings are light flyweight and strawweight, categories that by the laws of physiology were always going to contain a predominantly Asian and Latino contingent.

Still, that's little comfort to American fight fans if one takes a more discerning look at the figures. American fighters have only been featured sporadically in the lightest weight classes over the years, but after removing all the divisions below 130 pounds, the results are even starker. In 1990, of all the fighters ranked in the junior lightweight division and upward, a whopping 62 percent were American. Over the last 10 years, that figure has plummeted to 44 percent.

Zero in on the sport's flagship division, the heavyweights, and the picture looks even bleaker. In 1990, the top three heavyweights were Americans Buster Douglas, Mike Tyson, and Evander Holyfield. The only international competition among the top 10 came from Canada (Razor Ruddock) and Italy (Francesco Damiani). In other words, not much competition at all.

In 2000, the top three rated Americans are Tyson, Holyfield, and Michael Grant, while the best overseas behemoths are Britain's world champion Lennox Lewis, New Zealand's David Tua, and Russia's Oleg Maskaev. If today's three Americans were pitted against the trio of non-Americans, the non-Americans would have a

Uncle Sam On The Ropes?

damned good chance of winning the majority of the bouts. Such a notion would have been unthinkable in the past.

There are several reasons attributable to this negative trend in America's dominance. When Mikhail Gorbachev's *perestroika* reforms were enacted at the turn of the last decade, it became easier for Eastern European-based fighters to turn professional. But because it took some time for the lords of the amateur code to adopt to the niceties of the pro game, their successes were not instant.

Fast forward to today, however, and the world rankings are full of fighters from former Eastern Bloc nations, many of whom are promoted by the Hamburg-based promotional outfit, Universum-Box.

"It's definitely a possibility that fighters from Europe and Cuba will naturally progress beyond American fighters," said Bernd Boente, a spokesman for Universum. "The Universum stable is a great example of the new generation of fighter today, from Artur Grigorian [Uzbekistan] and Istvan Kovacs [Hungary], to the Klitschko brothers [Ukraine], we are becoming more and more dominant.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

According to one school of thought, the reason fighters such as Hungarian featherweight Istvan "Ko-Ko" Kovacs have been so successful in recent years is because of Eastern European training techniques.

"I think we have seen the same situation in German and English soccer. For a long time, both national teams were feared because of their fighting spirit. Now, the other countries have caught up and the supremacy has gone. In addition to that, in America nowadays even the kids from the ghetto are more interested in sports like basketball and football because the players are real idols and the sports are considered fun and hip—something which boxing is not. Where are the role models? Shane Mosley could play such a role one day, but right now, where are the Sugar Ray Robinsons, the Muhammad Alis, and the Sugar Ray Leonards? Boxing in America needs what tennis has now with the Williams sisters and what golf has with Tiger Woods."

Boente's points may be valid ones, but hasn't it been the case for some time now? While boxing slips slowly into the realms of a fringe sport, albeit one that prevents itself from falling into the abyss with the occasional great fight or fighter, the NBA and the NFL epitomize what American mainstream sport is all about. Maybe the difference today is that kids interested in pursuing an athletic career are wiser to the shenanigans that go on in pro boxing.

"I think that a lot of young American athletes are choosing other sports, sports which can help them get scholarships to play at universities," said Luis De Cubas, who runs Team Freedom, an organization that manages exiled Cuban fighters in the United States. "Their thinking is, *Why should we fight professionally when the money's so bad in the beginning?*"

As was the case with former Soviet fighters like Yuri Vaulin and Alex and Serge Artemive, defecting Cuban fighters struggled at first to grow accustomed to the technicalities of the pro game. Lately, however, they have begun to display a sharp progression. In 1990, fighters from Communist nations were barely knocking on the door of title contention. Today, four of them—WBC cruiserweight champ Juan Carlos Gomez and WBA super featherweight king Joel Casamayor (Cuba), IBF cruiserweight titlist Vassiliy Jirov (Kazakhstan), and WBC super lightweight supremo Kostya Tszyu (Russia)—reign as world champions, several more hold lesser WBO belts, and many more find themselves in the top 10s of the various governing bodies.

"Can you imagine how many Cuban boxers would become world champions if Fidel Castro allowed professional boxing in Cuba?" asked Boente. "That's what has basically happened in Germany since the Iron Curtain came down."

Boente cites another reason why American supremacy is on the slide: training methods. "Here at Universum we only have

PHOTO BY ANTHONY NESTE/HBO

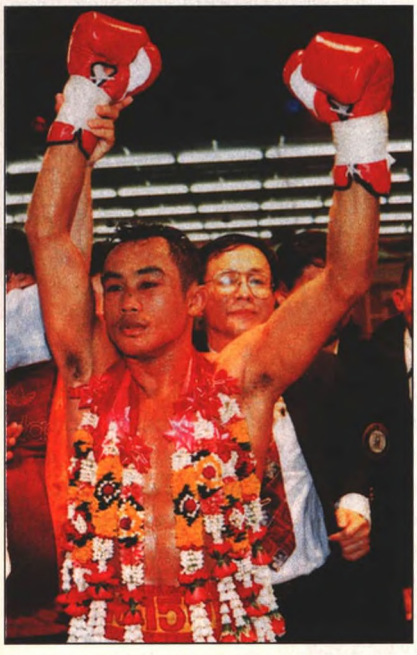
Kazakhstan's Vassiliy Jirov, pictured winning the IBF cruiserweight title from Arthur Williams, is another fighter from the former Soviet Union who has become a world champion since the fall of the Iron Curtain. None of the three reigning champs at 190 pounds are American.

former East German amateur coaches as pro trainers," he noted. "They are all well-educated, have a deep knowledge of modern sports science, the newest training methods, nutrition, etc. I tell you, Universum fighters are definitely the best prepared and best conditioned fighters world-wide. It's no secret that a fighter in top shape always beats the fighter who relies on his skills."

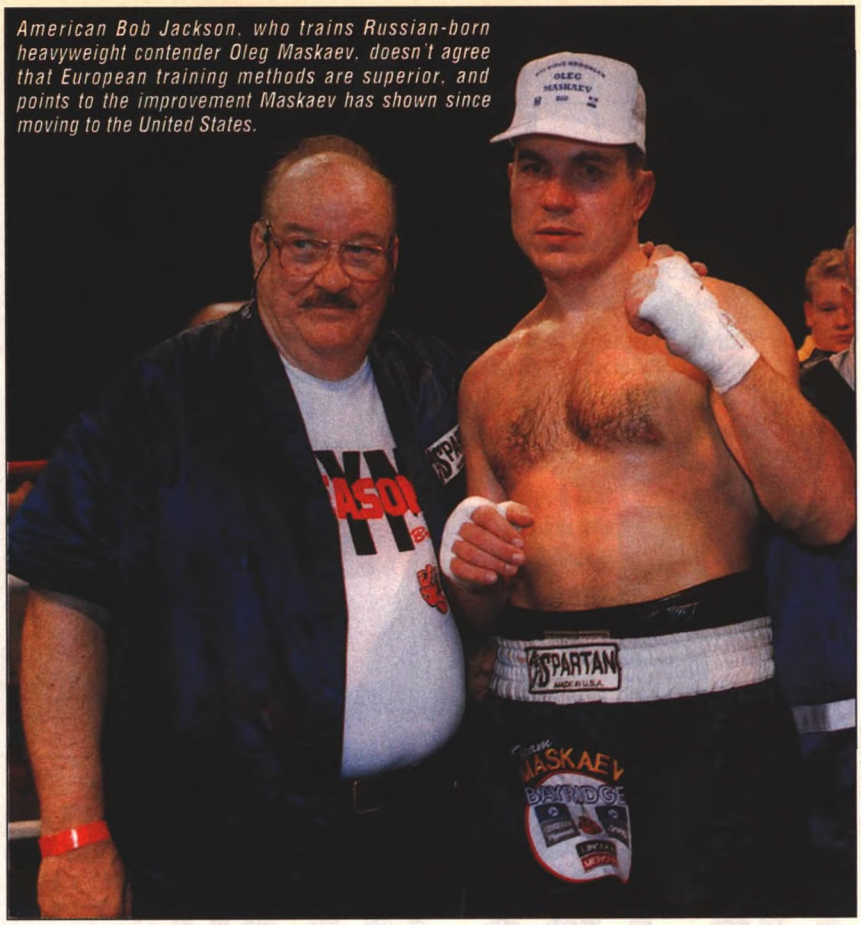
Boente's comments may be considered rather controversial, but when one remembers the downfalls of men like Buster Douglas and Michael Nunn, it would seem as though his argument has a few historical precedents from which to draw. Both men were talented fighters, but Douglas ate himself into oblivion and Nunn decided one day that his gifts no longer needed fine-tuning in the gym. Perhaps a coach like Universum's Fritz Sdunek would never have let them become so lackadaisical.

"No, I don't agree with any of that at all," said Bob Jackson, who trains Russian immigrant Maskaev at Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn. "It's only true that a well-conditioned fighter beats the one with natural skills if the one with natural talent is doing nothing to augment those skills. But put a guy in who's been working solely on conditioning against a guy who's been doing his hard work in the gym *and* has a high skill-level, and it's a different scenario altogether.

"The boxing version of a chauvinist pig is someone who says, 'America first in all sports,' and I'm not about that at all. But most of the successful Europeans, from Oleg to the lovely Lennox, have come to America to make their bones. The European style just doesn't spend in today's market.



Due to physiological reasons, Latino and Asian fighters, such as WBC bantamweight champion Veerapol Sahaprom, will always dominate the lighter weight classes.



American Bob Jackson, who trains Russian-born heavyweight contender Oleg Maskaev, doesn't agree that European training methods are superior, and points to the improvement Maskaev has shown since moving to the United States.

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

"As for the drop in numbers of American fighters in the ratings, I don't think that that's a sign at all that the power base is moving. Kids may be going up other avenues like basketball and baseball, but there are plenty of good young American fighters we don't know about yet because they aren't getting publicized enough. I don't see any decline in American boxing. It's just that the number of top European fighters has increased because their skill levels have elevated from working over here."

Though Boente and De Cubas clearly agree that American dominance is on the decline, they have different outlooks regarding what countries are taking over.

"Most of the American coaches are staying with old, traditional training regimens," said Boente. "They are teaching the techniques inside the ring, but leaving everything else to others. But at Universum we have decided that a boxer can only become a complete fighter by receiving complete support from the one person he relates most closely to—his coach."

"Boxing is the sport of poverty," said De Cubas. "In countries like Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Cuba, the only way out of the poverty trap is through baseball or professional boxing. American kids have more choices. I feel that the Latins are definitely taking over this sport, and without a doubt, if more Cubans choose to follow guys like Casamayor to the States, they will soon dominate pro boxing."

It's not all gloom and doom for the U.S. fight scene though. How can it be when American fighters like Mosley, Jones, Oscar De La Hoya, Bernard Hopkins, and Fernando Vargas fill the pound-for-pound rankings? And while nations such as Germany, Cuba, and Russia are producing their fair share of champions and contenders these days, the serious money, acclaim, and fame can really only be acquired by making it big in America. ■

Dominic Calder-Smith is a freelance writer based in England.

HEAVYWEIGHT TOXEY HALL

He Had A Piece Of The Rock ... Every Day!

By Pete Ehrmann

Toxey Hall thought his boxing career had been TKO'd when he walked into Chicago's Midwest Boxing Gym one day in the spring of 1953. Although he had local Golden Gloves and Catholic Youth Organization titles on his resume, and had gone 7-2-2 as a professional boxer the year before, win or lose, Hall's face swelled up like a beach ball. It didn't take much for it to happen, either.

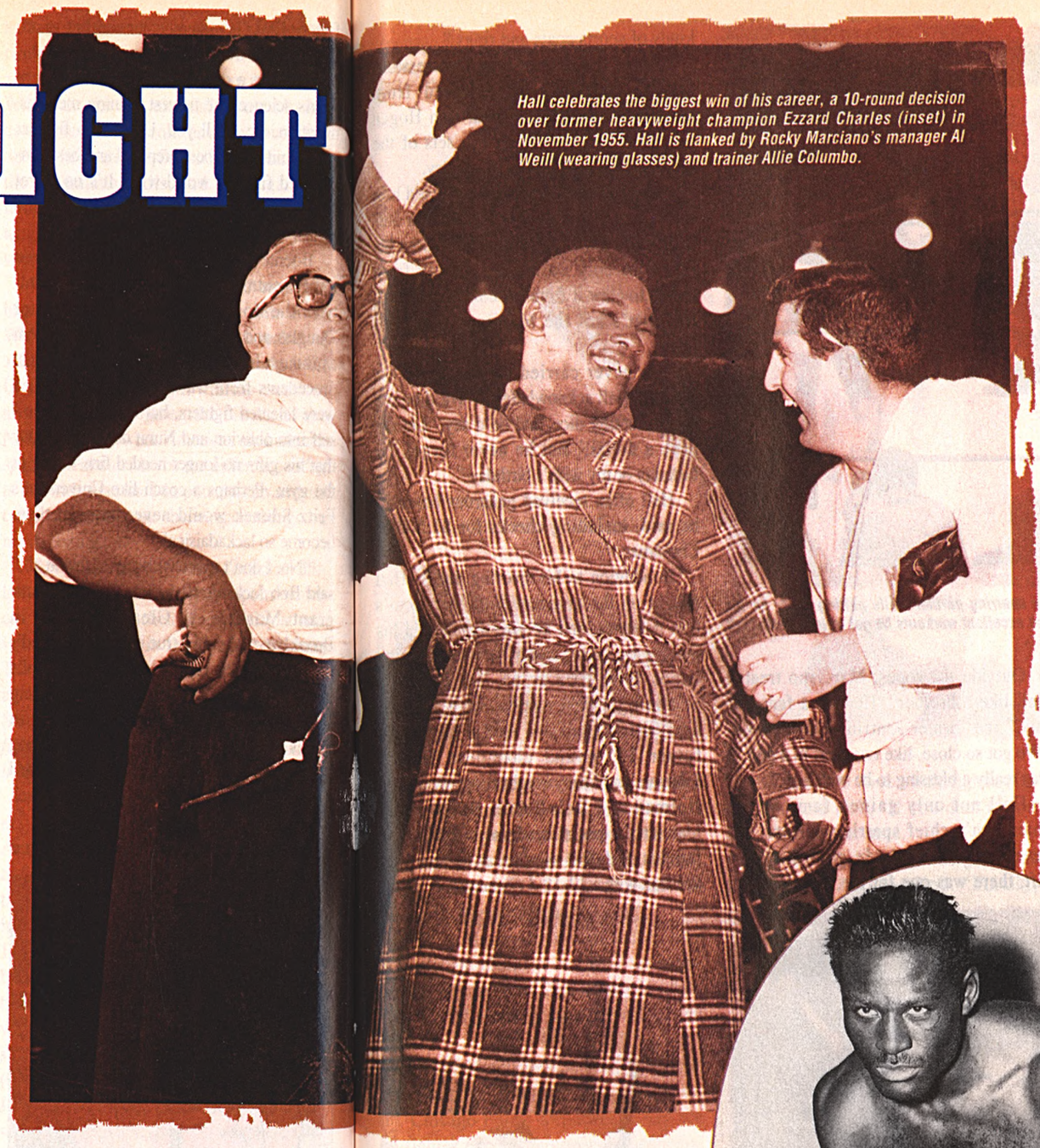
"I could blow my nose and swell up," said Hall, now 72. "After a while, I decided boxing was not my thing to make a living."

Born in Prentiss, Mississippi, Hall grew up helping his sharecropper father on their 180-acre farm. Good at football and baseball, he had no particular interest in boxing until he joined the Army in 1946 and had several bouts. When he was discharged, Hall decided to settle in Chicago, and began working in a cardboard box factory. On the second floor of the building was the CYO Gym, whose director was Tony Zale, the 1940s middleweight champion. Hall began working out under Zale's tutelage.

"What really got me interested," Hall recalled, "was in 1950, when I won the Joe Louis Sportsman Trophy in the National Golden Gloves tournament, and I started getting calls. People started treating me like I was the heavyweight champion of the world. I had no intention of doing anything in boxing. I was just trying to make a living. But these guys were so nice and good to me, and finally talked me into going pro."

His manager was Ike Bernstein, who also had hard-punching Chicago light heavyweight contender Bob Satterfield. Satterfield's big drawback as a fighter was a glass jaw; Hall's was sensitive facial tissue. After fights, he sometimes had difficulty seeing out of his swollen eyes. A doctor told him there was nothing that could be done for it, and warned that Hall's vision might eventually become impaired if he fought more than once or twice a year.

So on that day in '53 at the Midwest Gym, Hall was just a box-maker trying to stay in shape when his life was changed by the appearance of the heavyweight champion of the world.



Hall celebrates the biggest win of his career, a 10-round decision over former heavyweight champion Ezzard Charles (inset) in November 1955. Hall is flanked by Rocky Marciano's manager Al Weill (wearing glasses) and trainer Allie Columbo.

Rocky Marciano had won the title on September 22, 1952, by knocking out Jersey Joe Walcott in the 13th round. The undefeated Marciano was scheduled to defend the title in a rematch with Walcott at Chicago Stadium on May 15. The champion brought three sparring partners with him to the gym, and in short order each of them went off in search of medical attention.

"Marciano had this right hand punch called 'Suzy-Q,' and he would bang up everybody's ribs," Hall said.

Looking for additional fodder, Marciano's trainer, Charley Goldman, spotted the 5'11", 195-pound Hall and asked if he would be interested in sparring with the champion. Hall didn't hesitate before agreeing.

"I was a young man, and I wasn't even thinking that I was going to be 72 years old one day," Hall recalled with a laugh.

He wasn't even fazed when Marciano's introductory remarks cast that prospect in some doubt.

"Toxey, I don't mean any harm," said the champion who had knocked out 38 of his 42 opponents, "but everybody in the ring is my enemy. I don't pull no punches. Anybody who gets in the ring with me, even my friends, I'm knocking them out if I can."

"That was pretty nice of you to tell me that," Hall answered genially, "so I won't pull no punches, either."

Four rounds later, Hall was back in the fight game full-time.

"I love the way you work," Marciano told him. "Will you come to training camp with me?"

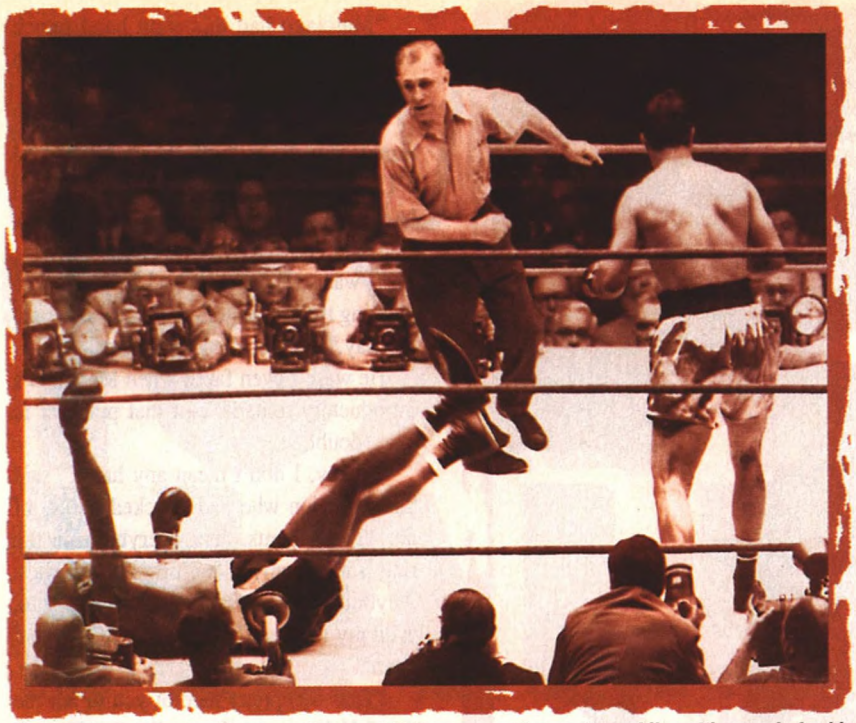
For the next three years, the Chicago fighter was paid $100 a week to help prepare Marciano—who knocked out Walcott in the first round of their second match—for five additional title defenses, and accompanied him on exhibitions around the country and overseas.

"I stayed with him until he retired," said Hall. "It was really a pleasure."

A pleasure, courting the dreaded Suzy-Q five days a week?

"That first time I was skeptical," admitted Hall. "But I would've got into the ring with the heavyweight champion of the world, even if I knowed he would knock me out. It was a thrill—and after that it was just like drinking water. He hit me good, but I don't remember him hurting me. One time he hit me above the eye, and it busted open."

To protect his vulnerable face, Mar-



Heavyweight champion Marciano first used Hall as a sparring partner while getting ready for his 1953 rematch with Jersey Joe Walcott in Chicago. The excellent workouts he got training with Hall helped "The Rock" tally a first-round kayo (pictured).

ciano gave Hall one of the specially designed headgear the champion wore.

"Most of the sparring partners would get hurt in their rib cage and wore football pads to protect them," said Hall. "But for some reason, that was my toughest part, and it didn't bother me much.

"The thing is that Rocky couldn't do much if you crowded him. But if you gave him room, he'd knock you out. If he hurt me a little bit, I'd turn and run."

The one slight exception was when they were preparing for Marciano's defense against England's Don Cockell in San Francisco on May 16, 1955. Before they got into the ring to spar, Hall mentioned that the champion was carrying his right hand low and exposing his chin.

"Why don't you just hit me then?" Marciano challenged.

So, recalled Hall, "I hit him with a left hook, and down he went."

The press was there, and the incident got worldwide coverage. Marciano said nothing at the time, but the next day when they were doing roadwork together, the champion stopped and said, "Toxey, you son of a bitch, you knocked me down in front of all those guys."

But Marciano wasn't really upset. "We laughed about it," Hall said. "He liked rough stuff."

Outside the ropes, Marciano treated Hall like a brother. "He was a fantastic guy," the former sparring partner said. "We got so close, like two peas in a pod. It was really a blessing to be with him."

Hall not only gained fame as the champion's chief sparring partner, but "every time somebody gave Rocky a gift, there was one for me, too. I got all kinds of sports coats and rings."

One of Hall's most prized possessions are the cufflinks he received from Marciano after golfing great Ben Hogan presented The Rock with two sets of the specially designed pieces of jewelry.

Marciano biographers have painted him as the kind of person who felt about a dollar the way Charlton Heston does about his rifle—the only way to get it away from him is to claw it from his cold, dead hand. But that's not the Marciano that Hall knew.

"He never carried no money in his pocket," Hall acknowledged. "We'd be out there shooting dice, and he'd say, 'Let me have a dollar.' But he never forgot my birthday or my wife's birthday."

Hall often received generous bonuses, he said, including checks for $1,500 at Christmas.

In addition to his sparring duties, Hall fought on the undercards of Marciano's title defenses, and he also augmented his income by taking bouts between training camps. From 1953 to '56, Hall met some of boxing's best names, such as light heavyweight champion Archie Moore and future 175-pound champion Harold Johnson, and heavyweight contenders John Holman and Bob Baker. But without Marciano's special headgear to protect his features, Hall lost as often as he won, and finished with a 13-13-4 (7) record.

Hall gets a few pointers from Ike Bernstein, who managed the Chicago heavyweight until Weill took over his contract. Hall stayed with Weill and Marciano until "The Brockton Blockbuster" retired in 1956.

Upon his retirement from boxing, Hall became a Chicago policeman. During the 32 years the former fighter served on the force, he only used his boxing skills once in the line of duty.

His biggest victory came on November 14, 1955, when he won a decision over former heavyweight champion Ezzard Charles in Providence, Rhode Island, though afterward Hall said his head was "swole up like two heads."

When Marciano became the only heavyweight champion to retire undefeated, in 1956, he wrote Hall a letter in which he said, "if you ever need anything, call me."

One of Marciano's police bodyguards suggested that Hall look into a career with the Chicago Police Department, and the ex-fighter entered the training academy. Marciano attended Hall's graduation later that year.

For the next 32 years, Hall worked as a patrolman. Only once in all that time was he compelled to use his fists again. It happened after a speeder barreled through an intersection Hall was shepherding students across on 63rd Street.

"I had to jump out of the way myself," said Hall, who then jumped on his three-wheeled motorcycle and chased the speeder down. The fellow got out of his car and recognized Hall from his ring days. Then he said that he'd done a little fighting himself and told Hall, "If you didn't have a gun, I'd bust your head."

"He kept talking until I forgot I was a policeman," Hall recalled. "Finally, I pulled off my gun, put it in the lockbox on my bike and said, 'Now I don't have a gun.'"

Undaunted, the big mouth offered to let Hall have the first punch, but Hall deferred to his challenger.

"He started to take off his coat," said Hall, "and got the first button undone when I let him have it right in the kisser."

They took the guy away in an ambulance. Later that night, when Hall's wife wondered what had happened to the Marquis of Queensbury rules, Hall explained that fighting fair in the ring is one thing, but in the street, "you don't give a person an even chance."

While working his beat on August 30, 1969, Hall got a radio message from his lieutenant that his old boss was in town. Hall and Marciano met for lunch at the Palmer House Hotel. Hall took his partner, who "was just thrilled to death to meet Rocky."

The next morning, Hall heard on the news that Marciano had been killed in a plane crash in Newton, Iowa.

"It just devastated me," Hall said. "I never met a man like that before. People talk about white and black ... I never met a black man like him."

Retired since 1988, Hall and Inez, his wife of 34 years, live comfortably. Over the years, friends and visitors have made off with just about all the photos and mementos of his boxing career, but his memories endure of when he was the right-hand man to the champion that ring historians rank as one of the greatest heavyweights ever to lace on gloves.

"Sometimes," said Hall, "I feel like I was the heavyweight champion of the world, the way I was treated." ■

Hall as he looks today, along with Inez, his wife of 34 years. The 72-year-old former fighter still recalls his years sparring with the legendary Marciano with great fondness.

Pete Ehrmann is a freelance writer based in West Allis, Wisconsin, and a regular contributor to this magazine.

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Lennox Lewis KO 2 Frans Botha
(Retains WBC/IBF Titles)
David Tua KO 3 Robert Daniels
Hasim Rahman KO 7 Frankie Swindell
Wladimir Klitschko KO 7 Monte Barrett
Mount Whitaker W Disq. 1 David Dixon
Maurice Harris W 8 Brad Rone
Vaughn Bean KO 1 Jimmy Haynes
Cliff Couser KO 3 Jorge Luis Gonzalez
Wolfgramm KO 3 Rocky Gannon
Jameel McCline W 10 Sedreck Fields
Ezra Sellers KO 1 Sid Mack
Tim Witherspoon KO 2 David Smith
Faruq Saleem KO 3 Antonio Colber
George Kandelaki W 8 Harry Senior
Eric Kirkland W 4 Tony Thompson
DaVarryl Williamson KO 2 Greg Dial
Butterbean KO 2 Dan Kosmicki

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Vassiliy Jirov KO 2 Earl Butler
(Non-Title Bout)
Jorge Castro KO 5 Bruno Godoy
Gary Wilcox W 8 Rich LaMontagne
Chris Mills KO 3 Tony Pope

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Chris Johnson W 12 Greg Wright
Clinton Woods KO 3 Greg Scott-Briggs
Yawe Davis KO 1 Roberto Jose Coelho
Julian Letterlough KO 7 Demetrius Jenkins
Julio Gonzalez KO 4 Patrick Swann
Elvir Muriqi W 6 Dan Sheehan

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Esteban Cervantes W 10 Danny Garcia
Paul Jones KO 5 Jason Barker
Will McIntyre W 12 Shannon Landenberg
Beethoven Scotland KO 7 Roosevelt Walker
Daniel Judah KO 1 Eric Brown
Karen Bill KO 2 Maria Johannson

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Yory Boy Campas KO 8 Tony Ayala
Rhoshii Wells W 10 Anthony Jones
Verno Phillips KO 5 Vincent Moses
Tito Mendoza W 10 James Coker
Howard Eastman KO 4 Ahmet Dottuev
Cristian Sanavia KO 1 Andile Tshongolo
Manuel Lopez W 12 Elvis Alexander
Ramon Moyano W 12 Jose Noyola
Kevin Palmer KO 5 Chenrainoi Chuwatana
Saeji Takechi Tech. Win 10 Kukyul Song
Satoru Suzuki KO 8 Naotaka Hozumi
Maselino Masoe KO 3 David Lopez

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Felix Trinidad KO 3 Mamadou Thiam
(Retains WBA Title)
Francisco Castillejo W 12 Tony Marshall
(Retains WBC Title)
Golden Johnson W 12 Teddy Reid
Adrian Stone KO 6 Geoff McCreesh
Sam Garr KO 2 James Mason
Michael Lerma D 10 Alex Bunema
Carlos Bojorquez KO 3 Luther Smith
Victor Rosado Tech. Draw 3 Pedro Sanchez
Michael Covington W 8 Agustin Silva
Dexter Williams KO 2 Patrick Byrd

WELTERWEIGHTS

Daniel Santos KO 4 Giovanni Parisi
Michele Piccirillo KO 9 Andrew Murray
Jose Luis Cruz KO 9 Leonard Townsend
Chris Linson W 12 Gerald Reed
Poli Diaz KO 4 Carlos Montero
Daniel Lynem KO 4 Humberto Zubia
Miguel Figueroa KO 1 Juan Torres
John Molnar KO 2 Mike Rios
Franco Ogentho W 6 Patrick Thorns

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Kostya Tszyu KO 6 Julio Cesar Chavez
(Retains WBC Title)
Zab Judah KO 4 Terronn Millett
(Retains IBF Title)
Ener Julio W 12 Randall Bailey
Hector Camacho Jr. Tech. Win 6 Philip Holiday
Shea Neary W 10 Alan Bosworth
Masakazu Satake W 12 Jongkil Kim
Alex Trujillo W 12 Mark Suarez
Yuji Watanabe KO 1 Khanongsuk Vorapin
Pedro Saiz W 8 Victor McKinnis
Michael Stewart KO 6 David Armstrong

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Joel Casamayor W 10 Bernard Harris
(Non-Title Bout)
Juan Lazcano W 10 Jesse James Leija
Roberto Garcia W 8 Sandro Marcos
Colin Dunne KO 4 Leonti Voronchuck
Colin Dunne KO 5 Rakhim Mingaleev
Stefano Zoff W 6 Armando Ariaga
Juan Gomez Trinidad KO 2 Wilfrido Ruiz
Dario Matteoni KO 5 Carlos Ramirez
Efren Hinojosa W 12 Steve Quinonez
Leavander Johnson KO 5 Larry Shields
Sandro Casamonica W 6 Manuel Gomez
Xuxa Nascimento W 8 Rosemberg Palacios
Justo Sencion W 8 Jaime Torres

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Jesus Chavez KO 2 Miguel Andrade
Tontcho Tontchev KO 6 Nabaloum Dramane

Koji Arisawa D 10 Tetsuya Shinozaki
Randy Suico KO 12 Joel Gonzalez
Panther Yanagida KO 2 Joebar Damosmog
Michael Gomez KO 2 Carl Greaves
Shamir Reyes Tech. Draw 2 Poblibio Maldonado

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Angel Vazquez W 12 Max Gomez
Derrick Gainer KO 8 Richard Carrillo
Scott Harrison W 12 Tom Johnson
Edgar Barcenas W 12 Hector Marquez
Takashi Koshimoto W 10 Dodong Sales
Rodolfo Blanco KO 8 Orlando Gonzalez
John Lowey W 6 Marik McKay
Kenichi Sugama KO 5 Kenji Ryuki
Edwin Santana W 6 Anthony Hardy

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Bones Adams KO 6 Andres Fernandez
(Retains WBA Title)
Carlos Contreras KO 11 Charles Mailula
Arnel Barotillo KO 1 Warren Stelle
Israel Vazquez KO 2 Amador Vazquez
Setsuo Segawa W 10 Manabu Fukushima
Adarryl Johnson KO 1 Daniel Rodriguez
Johnny Armour W 8 Alexandre Tiranov
Fernando Velardez W 10 Edgar Jasso
Geraldine Iglesias W 4 Irichelle Duran

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Adan Vargas W 12 Mauricio Pastrana
Noel Wilders W 12 Paul Lloyd
Dario Azuaga No-Contest 6 Alexandre Da Silva
Jovy Halog KO 1 Todd Makelin
Emanuel Lucero W 10 Juan Polo-Perez

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Felix Machado W 12 Julio Gamboa
(Wins Vacant IBF Title)
Marcos Badillo KO 8 Pedro Pena
Mzi Dintsi KO 3 Xolani Ndleleni

FLYWEIGHTS

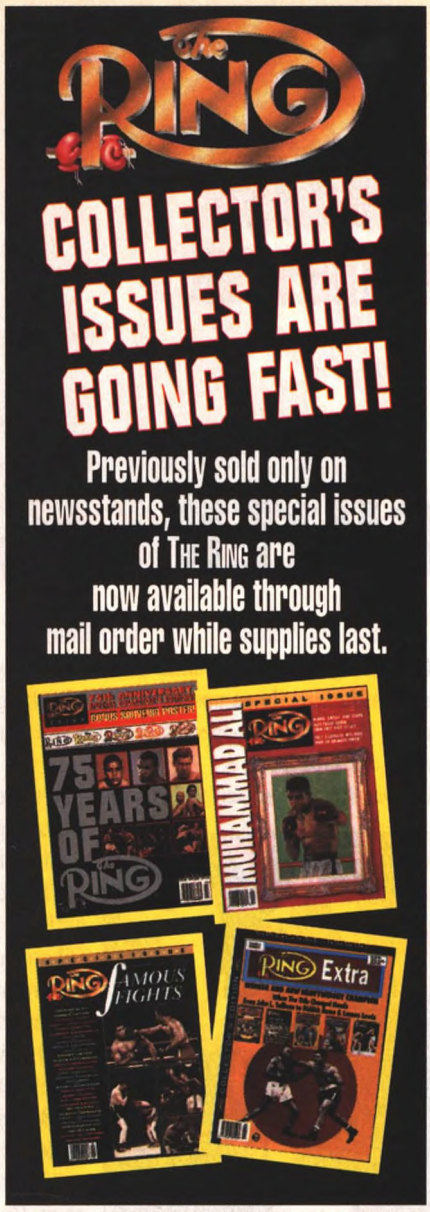
Eric Morel W 12 Sornpichai Pisnurachank
(Wins WBA Title)
Alejandro Montiel KO 4 Javier Angeles
Alex Ali Baba W 12 Hugo Romero
Mzukisi Sikali KO 2 Daniel Ward
Erik Ortiz KO 8 Pedro Gutierrez

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Will Grigsby W 12 Nelson Dieppa
Jorge Arce KO 1 Emilio Palacios
Paulino Villalobos KO 6 Valerio Sanchez

STRAWWEIGHTS

Jose Aguirre KO 5 Jose Luis Zepeda
(Retains WBC Title)
Manny Melchor W 12 Dayar Sukhbar
Satoru Abe Tech. Draw 4 Masanori Suga



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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

Randall Bailey was being called the new Tommy Hearns. If so, that must make Ener Julio the new Iran Barkley. In an upset nearly as shocking as when "The Blade" upended "The Hit Man" back in 1988, Julio dropped Bailey en route to ruining his perfect record with a stunning split-decision win.

Not only was Julio supposed to lose, he wasn't even expected to be competitive. The hellacious-punching Bailey had been getting hotter with every fight, to the point where many observers were considering him one of the three or four best in the highly competitive junior welterweight division. Julio was an unknown who just two fights earlier was decisioned by the ordinary DeMarcus "Chop Chop" Corley. This fight looked like such a guaranteed blowout for Bailey that HBO, on hand for the Felix Trinidad-Mamadou Thiam main event, chose not to televise it.

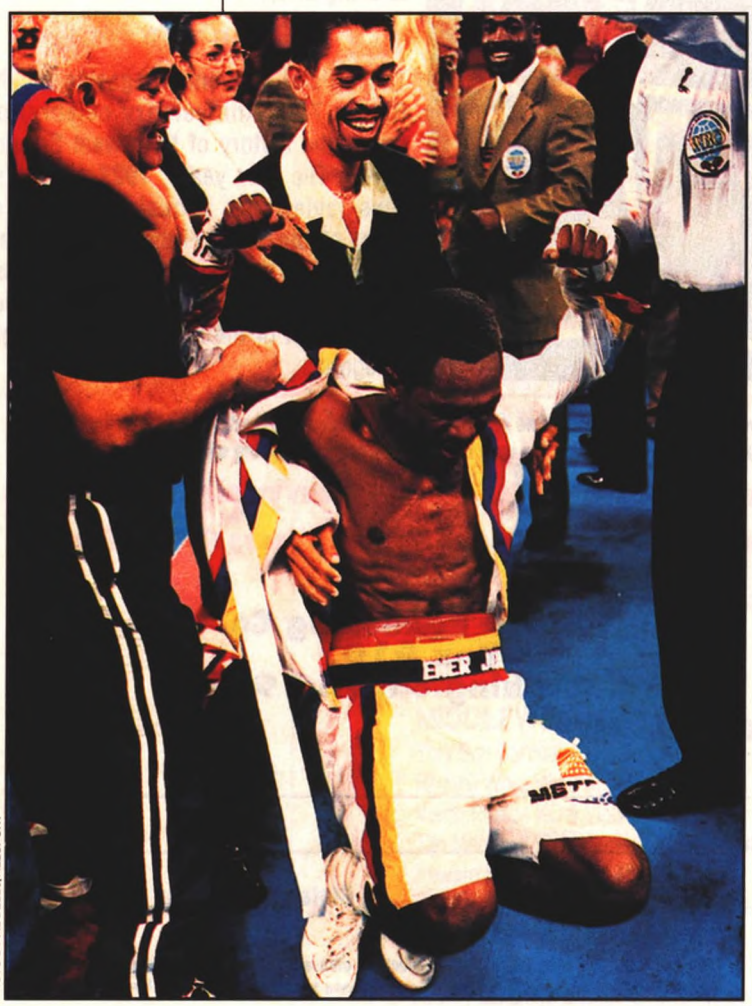


PHOTO BY AL BELLO/ALLSPORT

Big mistake. Julio dropped Bailey in the first round. Bailey, fighting through a grotesquely swollen right eye and temple, came back to floor Julio in the sixth and ninth. But he couldn't knock Julio out, as he had each of the 21 men he'd faced previously, and the Colombian underdog's toughness paid off when the cards were read. There's a new Blade in town, and he's carved himself out a pretty favorable position in one of boxing's brightest divisions.

• • • •

Ener Julio

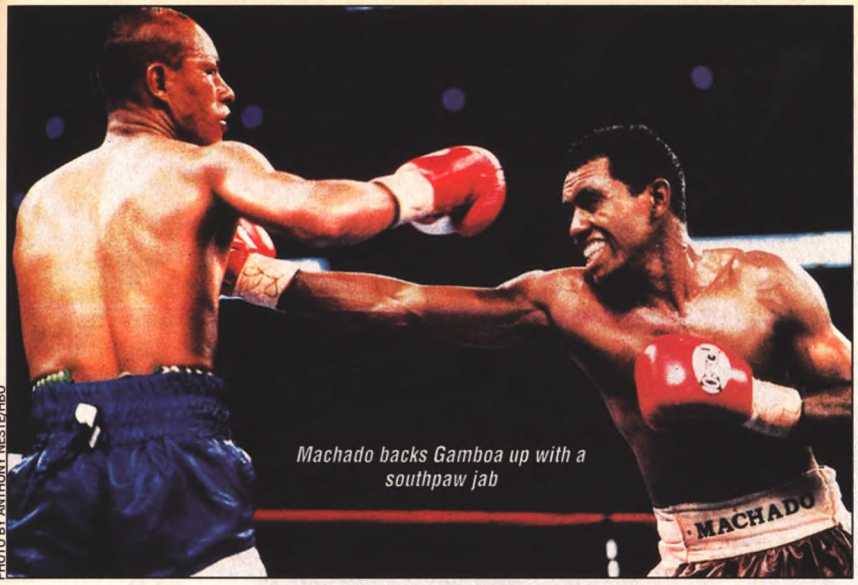


PHOTO BY ANTHONY NESTE/HBO

Machado backs Gamboa up with a southpaw jab

and Jay Kassees (USA) charitably gave Gamboa one round in carding the bout 119-109 for Machado, while Peter Trematerra (USA) saw it a shutout, 120-108, the same as THE RING. The referee was Armando Garcia (USA).

So what made this fight different from the first one?

"This time I stood my ground and fought him instead of backing up," said Machado, 19-3-1 (10). "What happened in the first fight was even more inspiration for me. I won the first fight, and they gave it to him. I decided that this time I was going to win easily and prove to everyone that I'm the best man."

Promoter: Don King Productions

(7-22-00)

Ken Knox

Felix Machado W 12 Julio Gamboa

Miami, Florida: Machado was happy when the IBF junior bantamweight belt was strapped around his waist following his dominating win over Gamboa, but his joy was tempered by the belief that he had actually been the champion for the past two months.

The two southpaws first fought for the vacant title on May 20 in Tunica, Mississippi. In that fight, Machado knocked down Gamboa and appeared to have outboxed him over 12 rounds, but, surprise, surprise, the judges saw things differently, and the fight ended in a controversial draw. Gamboa and Machado retained their number-one and number-two rankings, respectively, and the IBF ordered an immediate rematch.

Machado, 115, Venezuela, lacked the power to take the decision out of the hands of the judges at American Airlines Arena, so he did the next best thing by giving Gamboa, 115, Nicaragua, a boxing lesson that left no doubt about his superiority. For most of this fight, Machado's weapon of choice was a stinging right jab, complemented by sharp left hands to the head. The jab initially was defensive in nature to keep the hard-hitting Gamboa from planting his feet to throw powershots. Whenever Gamboa was able to shorten the distance between them, Machado would flick a jab in his face and dance away, leaving Gamboa standing there. As the bout progressed, however, Machado's jab became more of a true offensive weapon.

A punch in round two opened a cut on Gamboa's right cheek and caused some swelling around the Nicaraguan's right eye. Three rounds later, an accidental clash of heads opened a gash high on Gamboa's scalp. Blood streamed down Gamboa's face for several rounds, but his corner eventually stemmed the flow of crimson, and the cut was not a factor in the outcome of the fight.

Machado's best round was the sixth, when he slipped practically every punch the 28-year-old Gamboa threw and peppered his foe with spearing jabs and followup lefts and rights to the head.

Gamboa, 24-5-1 (15), pressed the action throughout, but Machado became more aggressive in the second half of the fight. Machado, 27, came out energized for the 12th round, secure in the knowledge that the fight and the championship belt, finally, was his. The final scores were anticlimactic. Judges Rich Green (USA)

Ener Julio W 12 Randall Bailey

Miami, Florida: Fighting in his hometown for the first time since he shocked Bolillo Gonzalez in one round 14 months earlier to announce his arrival as a potential force at junior welterweight, Bailey saw his undefeated record disappear at the hands of Colombian underdog Julio, who overcame a pair of knockdowns to take a split decision.

The two combatants had a common opponent in Hector Lopez. While Bailey had TKO'd him seven months prior, Julio lost to the veteran via 10-round decision back in 1996, helping fuel the belief that the hard-hitting Bailey would be an easy winner.

Julio, 139¾, asserted himself from the opening bell. As Bailey was swinging for the knockout with left hooks that caught nothing but air, Julio stayed composed and made him pay. Bailey, 139, jumped in to throw a right hand, but he was met with a stiff jab that buckled him. With 15 seconds left in the round, Bailey got caught by the same punch he was throwing—a left hook—and was knocked down.

The pattern was set, and even though Bailey would start to get untracked by the third, he was already getting worn down. He relied strictly on homerun punches, while Julio was steady, wasting little motion and backing up Bailey. Julio was content to feel him out with strong, debilitating jabs before going for the money shots.

By the fourth round, Bailey's right eye began to swell. He landed a beautiful double left hook, to the body and then up top, but Julio was unmoved. Bailey exploded a flush right hand off Julio's chin, but still there was no reaction. Finally, in the sixth, Bailey landed a right high on Julio's head that appeared to do the trick. The Colombian was felled, but rose quickly. He was clear-headed and immediately began pressing the action again. Bailey was cautious, but he struck Julio with a left hook to the jaw and raked his midsection with a right uppercut to punctuate the round.

Julio continued to land his lead right at will, and would often follow it with a jab. Bailey ate a monster jab in the seventh that had him groggy, but he came back with a left hook to buy time. Julio was more aggressive than ever, and sensing that Bailey's tank was empty, he launched a series of overhand rights that wobbled the heavy favorite.

Julio absorbs a vicious hook from one-eyed Bailey

PHOTO BY ANTHONY NESTE/HBO

Just when it looked as if Bailey was about to relent—his eye now was closed and the entire right side of his face was lopsided—he drilled Julio at the end of the ninth with a textbook right hand that folded him to the canvas. Amazingly, Julio got up in a hurry and went back to work. He picked up the pace to close the show, but Bailey was game, too, and he braved out the beating.

Julio landed some crushing overhand rights and staggered Bailey on several occasions in the last three rounds, forcing the hometown fighter to run at times. At one point, Julio landed four consecutive stiff jabs that almost dislodged Bailey's head. There were some scintillating exchanges that had knockout written all over them, but both fighters remained upright as Julio won the last three rounds on all three judges' scorecards—including the 11th round, in which referee Max Parker (USA) appeared to deduct a point from Julio for hitting on the break. Somehow, none of the scorecards reflected the point deduction. The American Airlines Arena crowd showed it had switched allegiances with a chorus of boos when Parker indicated the penalty.

Judge Mark Streisand (USA) scored it 114-111 and Cesar Ramos (USA) had it 113-111, both for Julio. Dennis Nelson (USA) saw it for Bailey, 115-111, as did THE RING, by a 113-112 score that took into account the point deduction. Bailey, 21-1 (21), was carted off to a hospital where he was diagnosed with a concussion, according to matchmaker Bobby Goodman.

Goodman said Julio, 21-3 (16), must now make a mandatory defense of the second-rate WBO crown he claimed from Bailey before considering a rematch with the 25-year-old who only had 49 rounds of experience going into the Julio fight. HBO declined to televise this chief supporting bout for the Felix Trinidad-Mamadou Thiam world title fight, presumably expecting a one-sided fight and not the thriller that unfolded.

Promoter: Don King Productions

(7-22-00)

Johnnie Whitehead

Joel Casamayor W 10 Bernard Harris

Miami, Florida: Disappointment was etched on Casamayor's face after 10 rounds of a glorified sparring session against Harris, a sorry excuse for a professional boxer. Harris put the screws to Casamayor not once, but twice over a 48-hour period.

This matchup was supposed to be one of the main undercard attractions beneath the Felix Trinidad-Mamadou Thiam bout at American Airlines Arena. It also was to be Casamayor's first defense of the WBA super featherweight title that the southpaw earned with a fifth-round stoppage of Jongkwon Baek in May. But at the weigh-in the day before the fight, Harris was five pounds over the 130-pound limit. Harris had two hours to drop the excess poundage, but he was able to shed only a pound. Since the fight was only a day away, there was not sufficient time to find a replacement challenger, so it was decided that the bout would go on as scheduled, but as a shortened 10 rounder and with the WBA belt on the shelf.

Casamayor, 129½, Miami via Cuba, was focused and all-business when the opening bell sounded. He went right after Harris, 134, Detroit, Michigan, and scored heavily with a series of accurate left hands to the body and head. Harris, on the other hand, made it apparent from the start that he had only one goal: survival. It was clearly on its way to being a stinker, further deepening Casamayor's sense of disappointment in front of thousands of his countrymen. Unfortunately, it got worse.

Casamayor displayed a cool professionalism as he clinically dismantled Harris with a steady barrage of short left hands to the head and body. But starting in the second round, Harris began showboating, dropping his hands to his side and taunting the champion. Casamayor seemed at a loss for how to react, but his fans wasted no time selecting an appropriate response: They rained boos down on Harris. The clowning unnerved Casamayor, 22-0 (13), in the fourth frame, as at one point he put his hands on his hips and glared at the Detroiter. Later in the round, Casamayor motioned to Harris to stand and fight, to no avail.

It wasn't until the fifth round that Harris at least offered a pretense of fighting. When he wasn't running away, covering up, or holding, he bulled into Casamayor and flailed ineffectively. It didn't fool anyone. Casamayor continued to provide all the offense until the eighth round, when Harris actually put up a fight and landed a handful of rights to the champion's head. That was as good as it was going to get as Harris, 19-9-2 (10), reverted to playing the fool over the final two rounds, while Casamayor kept piling up points.

All three American judges—John Rupert, Michael Pernick, and Allan Perrault—scored the bout the same, 100-90.

The fans cheered Casamayor's triumph, but the Cuban expatriate knew it was a hollow victory. "I'm disappointed I couldn't defend my title," he said, "but I still wanted to fight in front of my fans."

It is a shame that Harris, 26, made such a mockery of the fight because the 28-year-old Casamayor, who won an Olympic gold medal in 1992, is a consummate professional who deserves a quality opponent.

The referee was Tommy Kimmons (USA).

Promoter: Don King Productions

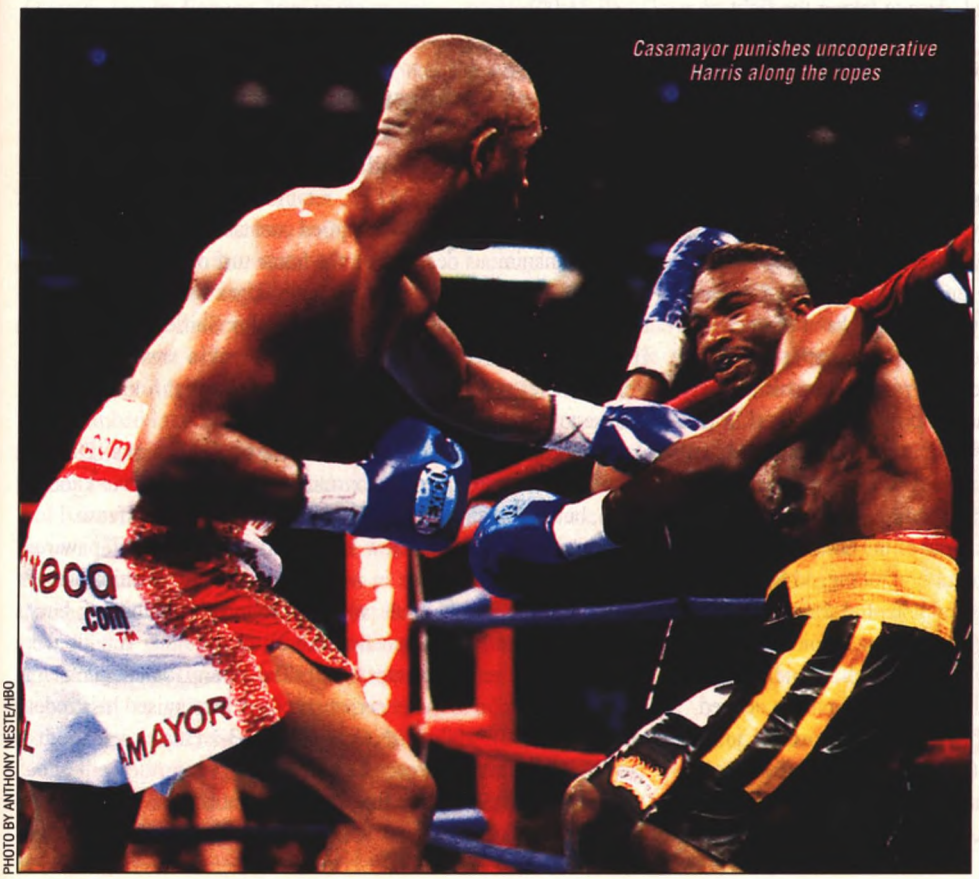
(7-22-00)

Ken Knox

Francisco Castillejo W 12 Tony Marshall

Madrid, Spain: Anxiety was kept to a minimum by Castillejo, 153½, Spain, as he smartly outboxed mandatory challenger Marshall, 153¾, Albany, New York, for a unanimous decision victory to retain the WBC super welterweight title at La Cubierta bullring. It was the Spaniard's fourth defense of a crown he claimed in an upset from American Keith Mullings in January '99.

A lucrative encounter with Oscar De La Hoya is no longer a short-term possibility for Castillejo after "The Golden Boy's" loss to Sugar Shane Mosley. Yory Boy Campas, back in contention after his stoppage win over Tony Ayala, is now a more likely target as the Spaniard strives to cash in on his increasingly successful reign. Marshall, 34-8-6 (12), showed few signs of bringing his tenure to an end, and the American challenger was unable to knock the champion out of the relaxed rhythm he established from the outset. More powerful than his foe, Castillejo, 49-4 (32), boxed as well as he has in any of his world title fights, and "The Lynx" is now firmly ensconced as Spain's most successful fighter ever on the world stage.



Casamayor punishes uncooperative Harris along the ropes

PHOTO BY ANTHONY NESTE/HBO

The jab worked well for Castillejo, 32, in the first round and for most of the rounds thereafter. His combination punching was sharp, too, and Marshall was frequently caught by fast right hands that prevented him from truly gaining a foothold. A solid right uppercut by the Guyana-born challenger in round two threatened to destabilize the champion, but he quickly reasserted himself with a series of hooks, though Marshall cleverly avoided many of them with good head movement and a tight defense. But the necessary aggression was lacking if Marshall was to pry the title away.

The 28-year-old challenger did not possess the punch either to trouble Castillejo unduly and, convinced he could not be hurt, the champion confidently controlled the fight. His right crosses,

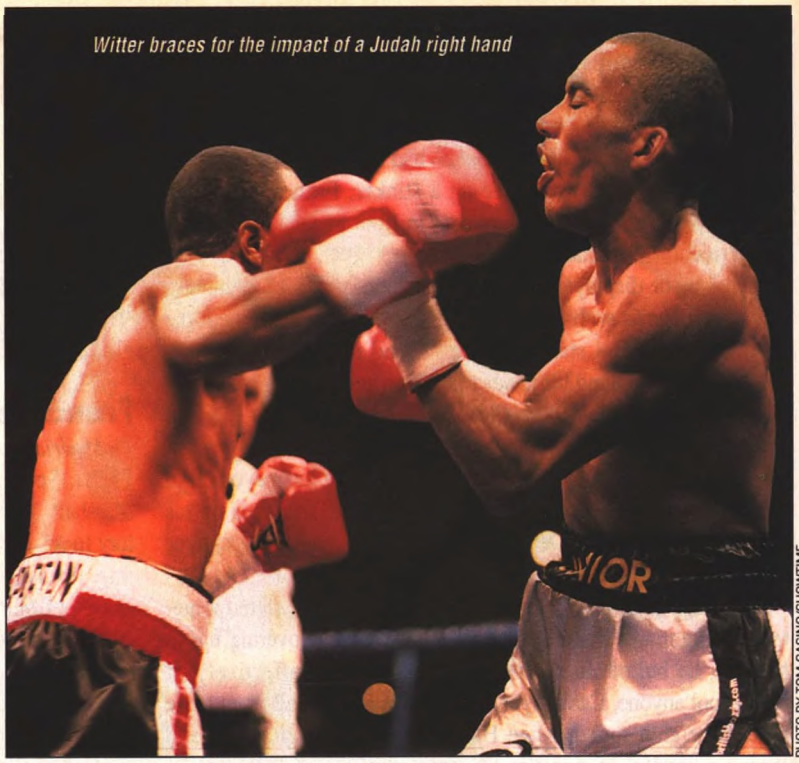
hard and accurate, persuaded Marshall to remain at a distance. By the final round, the crowd of 10,000 realized their man had done more than enough to take a clear-cut decision, despite Marshall's belated final-round effort to turn proceedings his way.

The judges were convinced too. Omar Mendoza (Mexico) scored it 118-110, Daniel Talon (France) 117-112, and Sergio Silvi (Italy) 116-114. THE RING saw it 116-112 for Castillejo. The referee was Daniel Van de Wiele (Belgium).

Promoter: Rimer Box

(7-21-00)

Brian Doogan



Witter braces for the impact of a Judah right hand

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Zab Judah W 12 Junior Witter

Glasgow, Scotland: Demonstrating all the elusiveness that is the hallmark of a fighter trained by Brendan Ingle—the Dubliner responsible for the successes of Herol Graham and, until recently, Naseem Hamed—Witter, 140, England, succeeded in making Judah, 140, Brooklyn, New York, look ordinary, which is no small feat. But the 22-year-old, considered one of boxing's brightest young stars, was effective enough over the 12 rounds to retain the IBF junior welterweight title for the first time at Hampden Park in the chief support to Mike Tyson-Lou Savarese.

Witter, 26, surprised almost everyone with a performance that revealed no trace of being overawed, despite taking the fight on a week's notice. His awkward style has left it virtually impossible for him to get opponents willing to take him on, hence his eagerness to accept the unexpected opportunity of challenging Judah, 23-0 (17) with 1 no-contest. The New Yorker won the vacant title with a fourth-round knockout of South African Jan Bergman, whom Witter had previously decisioned over six rounds. Witter was considered an opponent merely to showcase Judah's virtuoso talent, but he had no intention of following such a script.

This was emphasized near the end of the third round when Witter, 15-1-2 (4), connected solidly with a right hand that seriously concerned Judah's corner and the champion himself, who could be grateful that the bell soon intervened. Frustrated by his inability to pin Witter to one spot and unload his prodigious arsenal, Judah resolved to change the course of the fight in the fourth and did land a hard right that sent Witter's gumshield flying from his mouth. But the English challenger took his medicine and continued to prove a constant irritant for the remainder of the bout.

Still, Judah was the aggressor and rarely got tagged by Witter's counters, his sharp reflexes averting any potential danger while his fast hands landed frequently enough to pile up a points lead. But Witter remained strong through to the final bell, avoiding much danger himself and denying Judah the dramatic climax he desired.

The decision was unanimous for Judah. The scores of judges Vitorio Urso (Italy), John Coyle (England), and George Colon (USA) were 118-110, 118-111, and 116-112, respectively. THE RING scored it 117-111 for Judah. The referee was Roy Francis (England).

"He's a very good champion, but I think I showed that I will be up there with a little more experience before too long," said a happy Witter.

Television: Showtime

Promoter: Sports Network

(6-24-00)

Brian Doogan

Veerapol Sahaprom W 12 Toshiaki Nishioka

Takasago, Japan: Thailand's Sahaprom (a.k.a. Veerapol Nakornluang-Promotion), 117¾, retained the WBC bantamweight title for the fourth time as he applied constant pressure and pounded out a unanimous decision on the home turf of Japan's Nishioka, 118. The scores of the three American judges were not representative of what a clear-cut win it was, as Dalby Shirley and Gale Van Hoy both had it 116-112, and Marty Denkin saw it 115-113. Perhaps they were influenced by the pro-Nishioka crowd at Takasago Municipal Gymnasium.

Sahaprom was the aggressor all the way. Nishioka, 23, kept moving to avert the champ's constant attack and was never knocked down, but he failed to accomplish much in the way of offense.

Sahaprom, 31, often threw lead rights to the tall southpaw runner and kept the initiative in nearly every round. Nishioka might have taken the fourth, sixth, and 12th rounds by unloading bursts of relatively ineffective punches, but all of the other rounds were dominated by the Thai sharpshooter. The champ, whose nickname is "Death Mask" due to his perpetual poker face, raised his credentials to 26-1 (18), while Nishioka fell to 20-3-1 (12).

The referee was Laurence Cole (USA).

Promoter: Akihiko Honda's Teiken Promotions

(6-25-00)

Joe Koizumi ■

New Face

(Continued from page 18)

the thing that clicked with me. Boxing was my refuge. It wasn't that Huntington Beach was tough or difficult, but I didn't feel I belonged there. In the gym, it didn't matter who I was, where I was from. I felt at home."

While his parents, Enrique and Olga, support their son's career and travel as often as possible to see him fight, Gonzalez says it's hard for his mother to watch him give and receive blows.

"But I'm winning," shrugged Gonzalez, "so what can she say?"

Although his 20-6 amateur career was relatively brief, it was highlighted by a win over highly regarded Cuban Ramon Garbey and a trip to the 1996 Olympics as a representative of Mexico. But Gonzalez' experience in Atlanta was disappointing. In his first Olympic bout, he was matched with Russian Vassiliy Jirov, who beat the Mexican representative and went on to capture the gold medal. Jirov, of course, is now the IBF cruiserweight champion. When asked if he would like to avenge his Olympic loss by fighting Jirov in the professional ranks, Gonzalez qualified his answer.

"Yes, but Jirov would have to come down to light heavy," Gonzalez insisted, noting that his own weight naturally hovers right around the 175-pound division limit between fights.

The 6'2" Gonzalez has impressed the Southern California boxing community with his star potential. Ruiz' was not the first undefeated record he has spoiled. Gustavo Enriquez (W 6) and Reggie Roberts (W 8) were also unbeaten until they climbed into the ring with Gonzalez.

"Julio is a smooth boxer-puncher, a real technician in the ring," said Don Dinkins, publisher of *Southern California Fight Scene*. "His best asset is that he's a good finisher once he hurts his foes."

Nine of Gonzalez' last 10 fights have ended inside the distance, and according to co-manager Norman Kaplan, it has been his ability to get rid of hurt opponents, rather than an increase in power, that has led to the improved knockout percentage.

"I don't see Julio as a one-punch knockout artist," said Kaplan. "But he is becoming more intense, going for the kill."

So focused is Gonzalez on his own training that he claims not to watch much boxing or even follow other fighters' progress.

"I have no current favorite fighters," he said. "Just me."

But ask Gonzalez about old-timers, and he becomes almost emotional talking about Roberto Duran and Julio Cesar Chavez. "They were great, my inspiration," he said.

Gonzalez is currently on his way to winning his own place in the hearts of the Mexican and Mexican/American fans who make up the majority of the customers at any fight in this part of the country.

Following his impressive thrashing of Ruiz, Gonzalez was scheduled to fight Jacoba Garcia for the Mexican 175-pound title, but Garcia had visa problems, and veteran Tony Menefee was brought in as a last-minute replacement. Menefee, who had lasted eight rounds with Tony Ayala Jr. last year, lasted only four with Gonzalez.

All but three of Gonzalez' pro fights have been in California. Two of his out-of-state bouts were in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, the other in Japan.

"When we first talked about Japan, I got excited," recalled Gonzalez. "Then when I got there, it was tremendous to see how much the Japanese love boxing. Those guys know how to hit and they know how to take a punch. They're tough."

But apparently not tough enough. Gonzalez' opponent, Akinobu Yamamura, was sent packing in the third round.

Kaplan and co-manager/trainer Mack Kurihara realize that the 28-year-old Gonzalez doesn't have any time to waste, and have kept him on a busy schedule. Shortly before this issue went to press, Gonzalez raised his record to 24-0 (15) with a fourth-round kayo of Patrick Swann, his fourth fight in the first seven months of the year. Kaplan wants to secure Gonzalez a crack at the NABF title next, which certainly pleases the fighter.

"I'm ready to fight, anybody, anytime," said Gonzalez. "I don't care who it is. Put him in front of me, and he's gonna get knocked out."

The compassionate part of his personality obviously doesn't kick in until *after* the fight. ■

Fiona Manning is a freelance writer based in North Hollywood, California.

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Mike Tyson

(Continued from page 24)

an excellent and important match in all respects—and all you see in the press is talk about Lewis fighting Tyson. Combine Tyson's well-earned reputation as a loose cannon and a dirty fighter with that kind of intense, high-profile scrutiny, and you'll get the kind of overreaction we're seeing now.

Case in point: Remember when Tyson first went to England to fight Julius Francis—whom he disposed of without controversy, by the way—and suddenly politicians and women's rights groups were digging up an old law that said convicted felons weren't allowed to enter the country? The pro ranks are full of cons that sometimes fight in England. Entertainers with rap sheets perform in England all the time. Don King has been to England. Everyone goes to England. Tyson? Not without a struggle.

Here's another: Before the Savarese fight, a member of the British Boxing Board of Control got his name in the headlines by "demanding" to know the nature of Tyson's use of anti-depressant drugs since it is against the Board's rules for fighters to enter the ring while under the influence of any medication. Think this same level of attention is paid to some kid from Philadelphia fighting a six-rounder in Liverpool? Of course not. And what's the difference anyway? Is an anti-depressant going to enhance Tyson's performance?

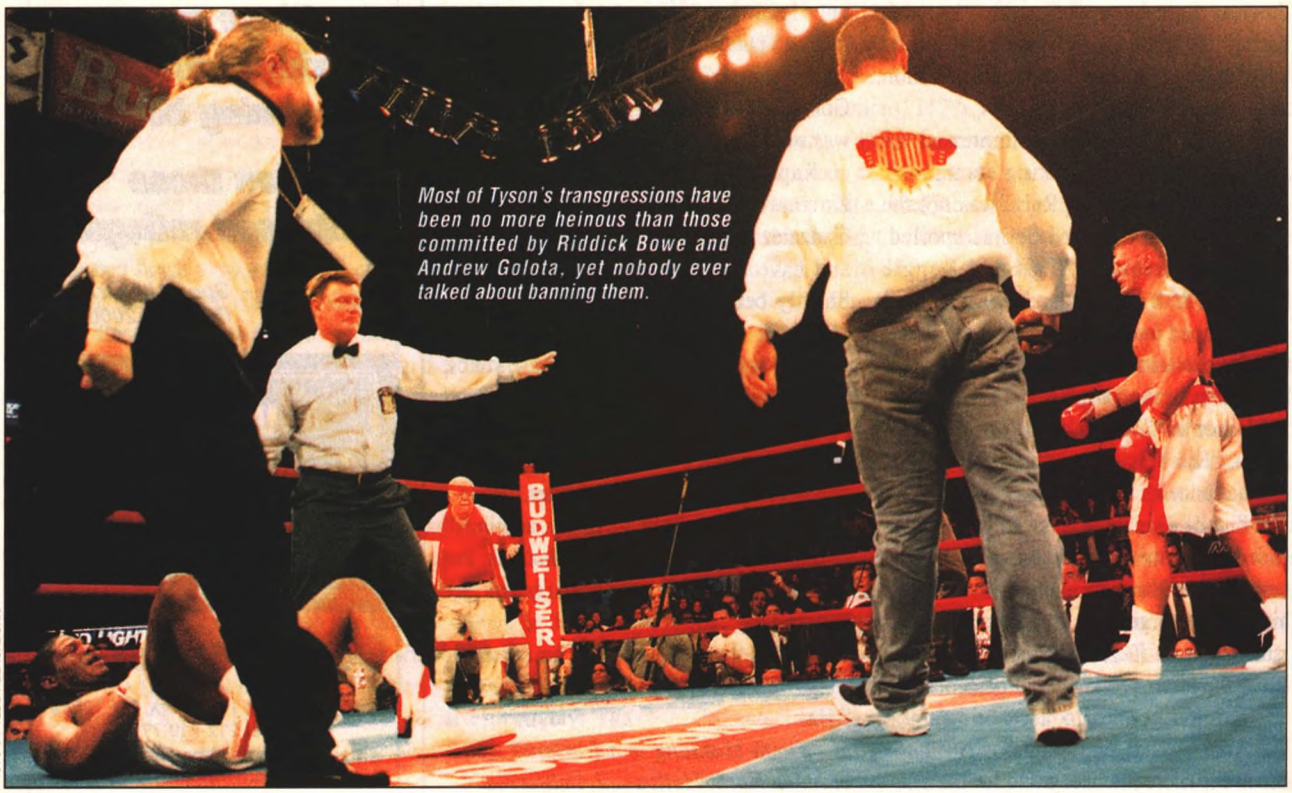
More examples exist that more closely parallel Tyson's in-the-ring transgressions. Within a span of roughly a year-and-a-half, Andrew Golota bit Samson Po'uha, flagrantly headbutted Dannell Nicholson, and twice was disqualified for repeatedly hitting Riddick Bowe low. (He also was penalized for headbutting Bowe in the second fight.) No one ever talked about banning Golota. Why? Because he shrugs his shoulders, gets hit on the head with a cellular phone, murmurs something in broken English, and then he's gone. No one cares. Can you imagine the furor if Tyson did to someone what Golota did to Bowe? Twice? He'd be burned at the stake.

Speaking of Bowe, think back and you'll remember that "Big Daddy" once bodyslammed Elijah Tillery (with the help of manager Rock Newman), sucker-punched Larry Donald at a press conference, and belted Buster Mathis Jr. when he was already on the canvas. Tyson's done none of those things. And here's one more example for you: If Tyson's maniacal pursuit of Savarese after the fight had ended looked familiar, it's because it resembled Vinny Pazienza's attack on Dana Rosenblatt after referee Tony Orlando called off their 1996 fight. (For the record, Orlando's chin wasn't much better than Coyle's).

We can hear the reply: Yes, but none of those fighters ever bit off half of someone's ear. That's true. Tyson's display in the second Holyfield fight was unforgivable. But in terms of his licensing today, it should have no bearing. If it does, then he should have been banished from the game then. That was the time to do it if it was going to be done. It wasn't.

Tyson doesn't help himself, of course, and that's the way he likes it. How else can you explain his alleged pummeling of promoter Frank Warren a few days before the Savarese fight over a $650,000 jewelry bill? Warren joins promoters Dan Goossen and King, who also were reported victims of Tyson's temper, but who stayed in bed with him anyway. Everyone has their price, especially promoters.

Go ahead and root against Tyson. Hate him if you like. He makes it easy enough. And if you want, pity him because the man is troubled. But don't say he shouldn't be allowed to fight. Troubled, dirty fighters have a place in the game, too. And that's all he is. ■



Most of Tyson's transgressions have been no more heinous than those committed by Riddick Bowe and Andrew Golota, yet nobody ever talked about banning them.

PHOTO BY TEDDY BLACKBURN

Mike Tyson

(Continued from page 25)

that was supposed to represent Joe Frazier was not a splendid human being. But Ali did get shafted, and that's something boxing must not do to another fighter.

So forget Tyson's offenses outside the ring. Forget that he kicked an old guy in the nuts, that he slammed THE RING photographer Brent Cook against a wall, that he may or may not have raped a teenager in his Indiana hotel room, that he paid off an off-duty jail guard after she sued him for making a rough, physical pass at her in a restaurant.

Don't consider that he stiffed a London jeweler for $650,000 and then allegedly did something painful to promoter Frank Warren's right eye when he wouldn't pick up the tab. Forget what he said about ripping out Lewis' heart and dining on his children.

And don't consider the interview in which he said he planned to make Razor Ruddock his girlfriend. (Remember that one? It dates back to before his Indiana prison term.)

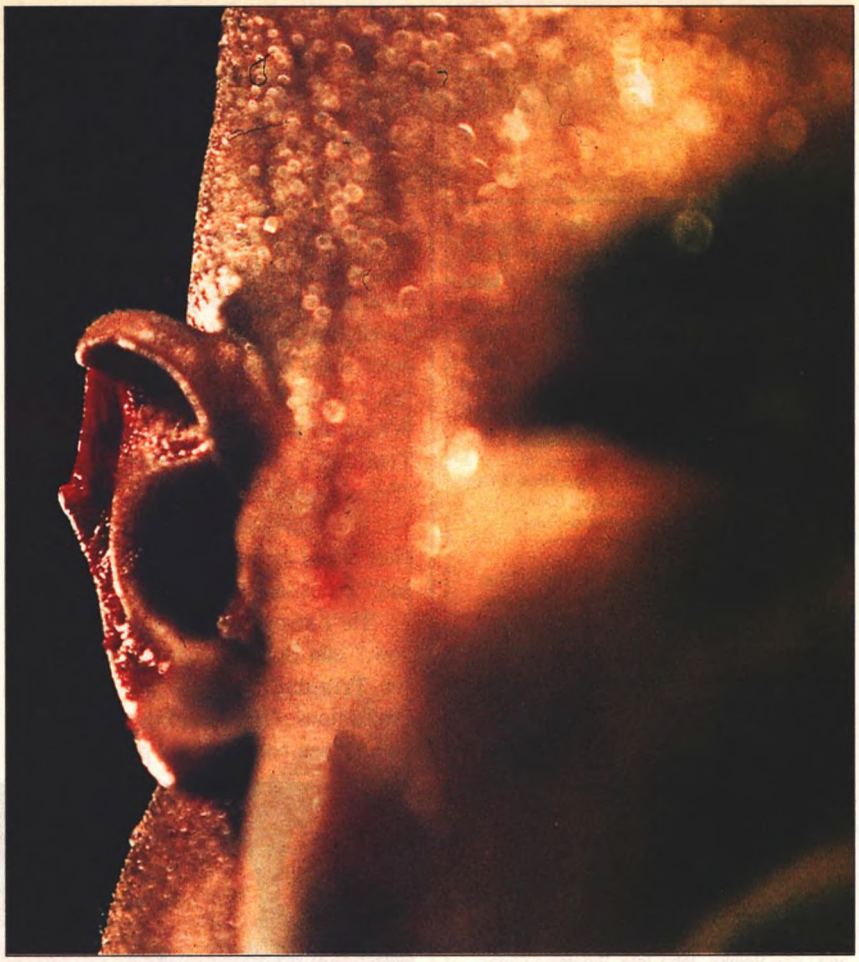
All we really need to know about Tyson is that he bit off a piece of Evander Holyfield's ear during a prize fight. Period. End of story.

Going outside the rules to maim an opponent for life is more than enough to take the offender out of the game. It's a damn shame, because he was a magnificent heavyweight in his time, but the Night of the Ears should have spelled the end of Tyson's career.

Basketball can afford to keep a player who tried to strangle his coach. And perhaps baseball is entitled to retain athletes who spit on or headbutt umpires. But boxing can't risk putting someone like Tyson in the ring. The sport is just too dangerous to take that chance.

Yet boxing did give Tyson another chance. And another and another and another. He failed every one. Boxing has a tradition of accepting ex-cons and other outcasts, and molding them into people with pride and purpose. But Tyson is not one of those people.

The night Tyson chewed off a piece of Holyfield's ear, referee Mills Lane, caving in to Nevada officials, let him continue. Tyson responded by biting Holyfield's other ear.



Should Tyson have been permanently banned when he did this to Evander Holyfield's ear?

Since then Tyson tried to break Frans Botha's arm and wrestled with referee Richard Steele when he tried to stop him. Tyson hit Orlin Norris long after the bell. When Norris fell, twisting his knee, Tyson belittled him for refusing to continue with only one good leg beneath him. Finally, he continued firing away at Lou Savarese after referee John Coyle stopped the fight. When Coyle tried to stop him, Tyson shoved and hit Coyle and hammered away at the defenseless Savarese until both corners poured into the ring. What's a guy have to do to get thrown out of this game anyway?

Tyson is a sick man. He's on the antidepressant Zoloft, which appears to arrest his symptoms. But some weeks before a bout, his handlers take him off his medication. Technically, the reason for this is that the commissions require Tyson to be clean of this drug come fight time. But it doesn't seem to bother Team Tyson that this mandate also helps them achieve maximum ferocity. That's a pretty nauseating way to make a buck, but a lot of bucks have been bet on Tyson. Showtime, for one, stands to lose many millions if he can't complete his multifight contract.

So making the best of a bad situation, his handlers sell Tyson's illness as a drawing card. Ironically, Tyson, an intelligent man, plunges into the freak show with gusto. Everyone can have a ball guessing what atrocity he will commit next time he's off his medication.

Given the state of boxing non-regulation, there's little chance Tyson will actually be banned. He can always find some greedy or desperate place that will allow him to fight there. He attracts fans for the same reason people buy car-crash videos and watch Jerry Springer. It's not about boxing anymore. It has nothing to do with sport. It's an appeal to the darkest corridors of the human soul. ■

Ivan Goldman is* THE RING'S *West Coast correspondent.

The RING '60s & '70s ISSUES

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Felix Trinidad

(Continued from page 35)

such as Trinidad. But that, Vargas insisted, is where the similarities end.

"I don't think Trinidad's stronger than me," Vargas said from his training camp in Big Bear, California, as he prepared to meet IBF mandatory challenger Ross Thompson. "David Reid has been knocked down many times before, so I don't think that's a big deal. I'm going to be there." Which is why many are anticipating Trinidad's power to prevail against "Ferocious Fernando."

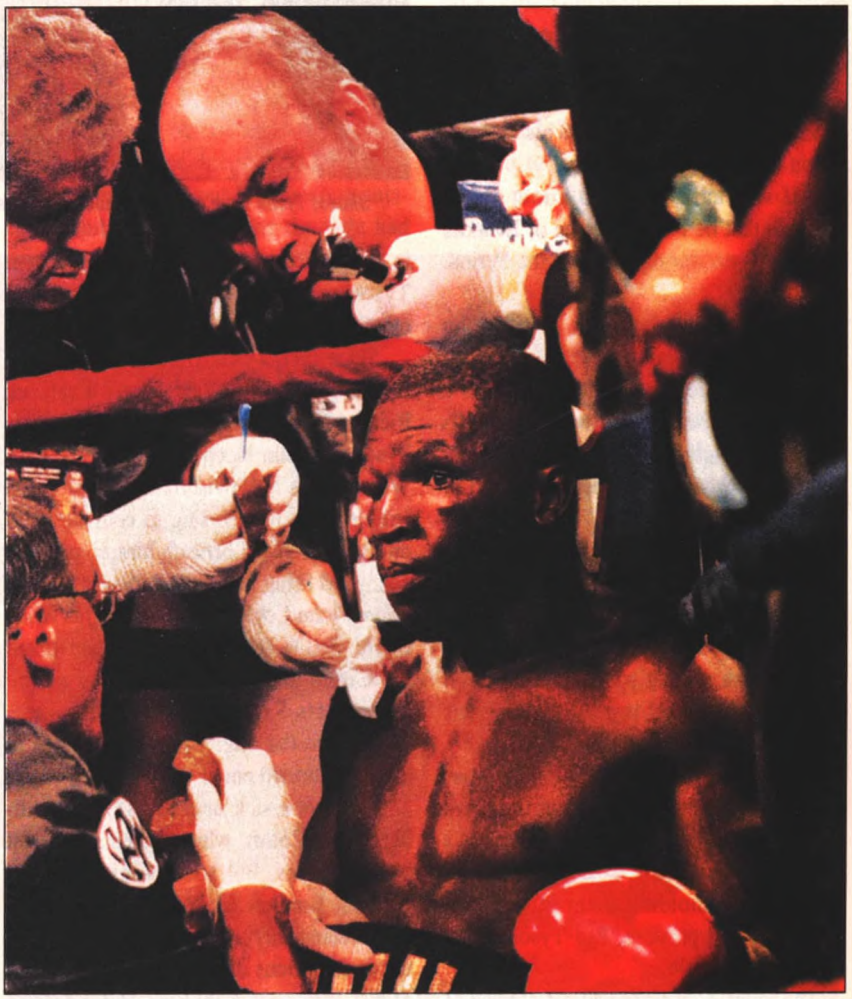
"If he can defeat Vargas, it might complete one of the best years a boxer has ever had," Davis said.

"He's reaching that megastar status now," said Bobby Goodman, matchmaker for Trinidad's promoter, Don King Productions. "He's starting to cross over into the non-boxing ring. I get lots of calls from the ladies and the moms about Tito."

Trinidad's options are endless. If his fight with Vargas is competitive, and with their styles and pride it's almost guaranteed to be entertaining, a rematch would probably be in high demand. Then there's the possibility that De La Hoya or Shane Mosley could move up to challenge the Puerto Rican. At the postfight press conference following the Thiam fight, however, the names most frequently tossed out by Trinidad and his father were middleweight kingpins Bernard Hopkins and William Joppy. Attractive matchups for sure, but neither possess the star quality of the top junior middles.

"There are lots of superstars and potential superstars and megafights at 154," said Goodman. "It would be foolish to move up until you've exhausted all of those possibilities." ■

Johnnie Whitehead is an assistant sports editor at the Orlando Sentinel and a regular contributor to this magazine.



Thiam's corner works on his swollen right eye between rounds, but despite all efforts, the eye ballooned up so badly, there was no way the fight could continue.

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★ Willie Pep
★ "Marvelous" Marvin Hagler
★ Ken Norton
★ Virgil Hill
★ David Reid
★ Michael Carbajal
★ Kid Gavilan
★ Bernard Hopkins
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WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by The Ring are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were complied as of June 2000, the WBC as of June 2000, and the IBF as of July 2000.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	**C**	**–**	**C**
Vacant	**–**	**C**	**–**
David Tua (NZ)	1	5	1
Mike Tyson (USA)	2	6	9
Wladimir Klitchko (UKR)	3	3	7
Larry Donald (USA)	4	7	3
Kirk Johnson (CAN)	5	–	–
Oleg Maskaev (UKR)	6	4	8
Michael Grant (USA)	7	12	6
Henry Akinwande (GB)	8	9	–
Francois Botha (SA)	9	–	–
Oliver McCall (USA)	10	–	–
John Ruiz (USA)	–	1	5
Evander Holyfield (USA)	–	2	2
Kirk Johnson (CAN)	–	8	10
David Izon (NIG)	23	10	11
Danell Nicholson (USA)	–	–	4

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Juan Carlos Gomez (CUBA)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Vassiliy Jirov (KAZ)	**–**	**–**	**C**
James Toney (USA)	1	2	3
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	2	4	4
Wayne Braithwaite (GUY)	3	–	11
Alex Gonzalez (PR)	4	9	–
Torsten May (GER)	5	8	2
Lou Del Valle (USA)	6	–	–
Carl Thompson (GB)	7	12	5
Louis Azille (DR)	8	–	9
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	9	–	–
Arthur Williams (USA)	10	6	6
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	1	12
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	–	3	–
Saul Montana (MEX)	–	5	7
Valery Vikhor (LAT)	–	7	–
Ralf Rocchigiani (GER)	–	10	–
Alex Gonzales (USA)	–	–	1
Ezra Sellars (USA)	13	–	8
Andre Purlette (GUY)	–	–	10

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Roy Jones (USA)	**C**	**C**	**C**
Michael Nunn (USA)	1	9	–
Clinton Woods (GB)	2	10	6
Eric Harding (USA)	3	7	1
Reggie Johnson (USA)	4	8	10
Yawe Davis (ITA)	5	–	–
Antonio Tarver (USA)	6	–	5
David Telesco (USA)	7	4	12
Greg Wright (USA)	8	–	–
Thomas Ulrich (GER)	9	–	–
Glenn Kelly (AUSTRL)	10	5	3
Lou Del Valle (USA)	–	1	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	2	–
Derrick Harmon (USA)	11	3	8
Richard Hall (USA)	15	6	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Billy Lewis (USA)	–	11	4
Lincoln Carter (USA)	13	–	7
Will Taylor (USA)	–	–	9

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Glenn Catley (GB)	**C**	**–**	**10**
Bruno Girard (FRA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Sven Ottke (GER)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Eric Lucas (CAN)	1	–	–
Markus Beyer (GER)	2	–	–
Mario Velt (GER)	3	3	4
Richie Woodhall (GB)	4	8	–
Omar Sheika (USA)	5	–	11
Charles Brewer (USA)	6	5	1
David Starie (GB)	7	12	–
Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)	8	1	–
Dana Rosenblatt (USA)	9	2	–
Stephane Ouellet (CAN)	10	–	–
Byron Mitchell (USA)	13	4	–
Manuel Siacca (PR)	–	6	–
Mike Makata (NZ)	–	7	–
Fredric Alvarez (SWE)	18	9	5
Mads Larsen (DEN)	11	10	–
James Butler (USA)	27	–	2
Thomas Tate (USA)	–	11	3
Guy Waters (AUSTRL)	12	–	6
Syd Vanderpool (CAN)	–	–	7
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	–	–	8
Willie McIntyre (USA)	26	–	9

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Keith Holmes (USA)	**C**	**–**	**–**
William Joppy (USA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Erland Betare (FRA)	1	–	–
David Reid (USA)	2	2	–
Hassine Cherifi (FRA)	3	5	9
Howard Eastman (GB)	4	1	6
Robert McCracken (GB)	5	–	–
Ali Ennebati (FRA)	6	–	10
Kevin Palmer (USA)	7	–	–
Davide Ciarlante (ITA)	8	–	–
Davey Hilton (CAN)	9	9	5
Antwun Echols (USA)	10	6	–
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	12	3	–
Julio Cesar Green (DR)	–	4	–
Darren Obah (AUSTRL)	–	7	–
Rito Ruvalcaba (MEX)	–	8	–
Lonnie Bradley (USA)	11	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Antwun Echols (USA)	–	–	2
Brian Barbosa (USA)	13	–	3
Carl Daniels (USA)	–	–	4
Dana Rosenblatt (USA)	–	–	7
Santiago Samaniego (PAN)	–	–	8

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Francisco Castillejo (SPA)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Felix Trinidad (PR)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Fernando Vargas (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Tony Marshall (USA)	1	–	–
Roman Karmazin (RUS)	2	6	–
Tony Badea (ROM)	3	–	–
Alfred Ankamah (GHA)	4	–	–
Quirino Garcia (MEX)	5	–	–
Kevin Kelly (USA)	6	7	–
Carl Daniels (USA)	7	4	–
Winky Wright (USA)	8	3	3
Akira Ohigashi (JAP)	9	11	–
Bronco McKart (USA)	10	12	4
Mamadou Thiam (FRA)	–	1	6
Jose Flores (MEX)	15	2	5
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	5	10
Julio Cesar Vazquez (ARG)	–	8	–
Ricardo Mayorga (NIC)	25	9	–
Emmett Linton (USA)	–	10	7
Ross Thompson (USA)	26	–	1
Robert Frazier (USA)	–	–	2
Pedro Ortega (MEX)	–	–	8
Nader Hamdan (AUSTRL)	–	–	9

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	**C**	**2**	**–**
James Page (USA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Vacant	**–**	**–**	**C**
Shane Mosley (USA)	1	–	–
Shannan Taylor (AUSTRL)	2	7	4
Ike Quartey (GHA)	3	–	–
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	4	–	–
Vernon Forrest (USA)	5	8	2
Alessandro Duran (ITA)	6	10	–
Derrell Coley (USA)	7	–	–
Jose Luis Cruz (MEX)	8	–	–
Kofi Jantuah (GHA)	9	–	10
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	10	–	–
Andrew Lewis (GUY)	24	1	8
Michael Trabant (GERE)	26	3	–
Arturo Gatti (USA)	–	4	–
Thomas Damgaard (DEN)	12	5	–
Oba Carr (USA)	14	6	3
Frank Olsen (DEN)	15	9	5
Raul Frank (USA)	–	–	1
Scott Dixon (GB)	–	–	6
Andrew Murray (USA)	–	–	7
Hercules Kyvelos (CAN)	27	–	9

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Zab Judah (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	1	–	–
Oktay Urkal (TUR)	2	3	6
Diobelis Hurtado (CUB)	3	2	–
Arturo Gatti (CAN)	4	–	–
Gianluca Branco (ITA)	5	–	–

Ricky Quiles (USA)	6	–	–
Mikhail Krivolapov (RUS)	7	–	–
Ahmed Santos (USA)	8	–	–
Vince Phillips (USA)	9	–	–
Teddy Reid (USA)	10	–	9
Hector Camacho Jr (PR)	–	1	4
Fred Pendleton (USA)	–	4	–
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	–	5	–
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	–	6	–
Antonio Diaz (USA)	15	7	–
Demetrio Ceballos (PAN)	–	8	–
Giuseppi Laury (ITA)	–	9	–
Felix Flores (USA)	–	10	–
Terronn Millett (USA)	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Allan Vester (DEN)	17	–	3
George Scott (SWE)	24	–	5
Gabriel Mapuoka (FRA)	12	12	7
Ray Oliveira (USA)	11	–	8
Reggie Green (USA)	–	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Steve Johnston (USA)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Takanori Hatakeyama (JAP)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Paul Spadafora (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Lawrence Ngobeni (SA)	1	–	–
Cesar Bazan (MEX)	2	–	3
Lovemore Ndou (SA)	3	–	7
Rick Yoshimura (JAP)	4	4	–
Hector Camacho Jr (USA)	5	–	–
Billy Schwer (GB)	6	–	–
Julien Lorcy (FRA)	7	2	5
James Leija (USA)	8	–	8
Bruno Wartelle (FRA)	9	–	–
Alberto Sicurella (ARG)	10	3	–
Vacant	–	1	–
Gilbert Serrano (VEN)	–	5	–
Stefano Zoff (ITA)	–	6	–
Jean-Baptiste Mendy (FRA)	16	7	–
Raul Balbi (ARG)	–	8	–
Oscar Garcia Cano (SPA)	12	9	–
Edson Xuxa Nascimento (BRA)	26	10	11
Billy Irwin (CAN)	18	–	1
Joel Perez (USA)	–	–	2
Angel Manfredy (USA)	–	11	4
Wilfrido Ruiz (USA)	–	–	6
Victoriano Damian Sosa (DR)	15	–	9
Mike Griffith (USA)	–	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Floyd Mayweather (USA)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Joel Casamayor (CUB)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Diego Corrales (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Jesus Chavez (USA)	1	–	9
Sirimongkol Singmanassuk (THAI)	2	–	–
Kengo Nagashima (JAP)	3	–	–
Boris Sinitsin (RUS)	4	7	–
Tiger Ari (PHIL)	5	–	–
Goyo Vargas (MEX)	6	–	–
Carlos Hernandez (EL SALV)	7	–	–
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	8	–	–
Dennis Holbaek (DEN)	9	–	–
Ben Tackie (GHA)	10	11	11
Vacant	–	1	2
Lakva Sim (MON)	–	2	–
Yodsanan Nanthachai (THAI)	–	3	–
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	–	4	–
Tontcho Tontchev (BUL)	14	5	–
Jongkwon Baek (KOR)	11	6	–
Luis Navarro (USA)	25	8	10
Steve Forbes (USA)	–	9	5
Juan Lazcano (USA)	–	10	–
John Brown (USA)	–	–	1
Derrick Gainer (USA)	–	–	3
Carlos Hernandez (USA)	–	–	4
Santos Rebolledo (VEN)	–	–	6
Robbie Peden (AUSTRL)	13	–	7
David Santos (USA)	–	–	8

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Guty Espadas (MEX)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Fred Norwood (USA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Paul Ingle (GB)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Injin Chi (KOR)	1	–	–
Tony Wehbee (AUS)	2	–	7
Istvan Kovacs (HUN)	3	7	–
Augie Sanchez (USA)	4	–	–
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	5	–	–
Raul Perez (MEX)	6	–	–
Kevin Kelley (USA)	7	12	5
Juan Carlos Ramirez (MEX)	8	–	–
Philip Ndou (SA)	9	4	–
Pablo Chacon (ARG)	10	5	–
Vacant	–	1	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	2	–
Victor Polo (COL)	–	3	4
Angel Vasquez (PR)	24	6	3
Richard Carrillo (VEN)	–	8	–
Derrick Gainer (USA)	–	9	–
Juan Manuel Marquez (MEX)	14	10	–
Manuel Medina (MEX)	21	–	1
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	–	2
David Toledo (USA)	–	–	6
Oscar Larios (MEX)	–	–	8
Frankie Toledo (USA)	–	–	9
Carlos Navarro (USA)	–	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Erik Morales (MEX)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Clarence Adams (USA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Lehlo Ledwaba (SA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Michael Brodie (GB)	1	7	2
Willie Jorrin (USA)	2	11	4
Sergei Devakov (UKR)	3	–	3
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	4	–	8
Oscar Larios (MEX)	5	–	–
Cesar Soto (MEX)	6	–	–
Manny Pacquaio (PHIL)	7	–	5
Enrique Sanchez (MEX)	8	9	6
Israel Vazquez (MEX)	9	–	7
Shin Yamato (JAP)	10	–	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	1	–
Yobert Ortega (VEN)	21	2	–
Bugiarso (INDO)	–	3	–
Nestor Garza (MEX)	–	4	–
Vladislav Antonov (RUS)	19	5	–
Jose Luis Valbuena (VEN)	–	6	–
Jose Rojas (VEN)	–	8	–
Osamu Sato (JAP)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Hector Julia Avila (DR)	12	–	9
Agapito Sanchez (DR)	16	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Veerapol Sahaprom (THAI)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Paul Ayala (USA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Tim Austin (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	1	4	6
Jess Maca (PHIL)	2	–	–
Adan Vargas (MEX)	3	7	3
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	4	–	7
Gerardo Martinez (MEX)	5	–	–
Ricardo Barajas (MEX)	6	–	–
Hugo Dianzo (MEX)	7	–	–
Toshiaki Nishioka (JAP)	8	–	–
Evangelio Perez (PAN)	9	–	–
Francisco Mateos (MEX)	10	–	–
Vacant	–	1	–
Sahoiu Sithchai Condo (THAI)	–	2	–
Danny Romero (USA)	–	3	4
Toshiaki Nishioka (JAP)	–	5	–
Fernando Montiel (MEX)	–	6	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	–	8	–
Rafael Marquez (MEX)	11	9	9
Jorge Eliecer Julio (COL)	–	10	–
Jesus Perez (COL)	25	–	1
Arthur Johnson (USA)	12	–	2
Pete Frissina (USA)	–	–	5
Paul Lloyd (GB)	–	–	8
Steve Dotse (GHA)	–	–	10

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
In Joo Cho (KOR)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Hideki Todaka (JAP)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Vacant	**–**	**–**	**C**
Eric Morel (USA)	1	–	–
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	2	–	–
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	3	9	4
Heriberto Ruiz (MEX)	4	–	7
Dimitri Kirilov (RUS)	5	–	–
Masanori Tokuyama (JAP)	6	–	–
Seungrok Choi (KOR)	7	–	–
Trinidad Mendoza (MEX)	8	–	–
Fernando Montiel (MEX)	9	–	–
Reynaldo Hurtado (COL)	10	–	–
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	1	–
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	2	3
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	–	3	5
Edison Torres (VEN)	–	4	–
Felix Machado (VEN)	–	5	2
Jesper Jensen (DEN)	–	6	–
Akihigo Nago (JAP)	13	7	–
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	–	8	–
Lester Fuentes (NIC)	26	10	–
Julio Gamboa (NIC)	–	–	1
Vernie Torres (USA)	–	–	6
Luis Bolanos (COL)	–	11	8
Everardo Morales (MEX)	–	–	9
Antonio Gonzales (MEX)	–	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Malcolm Tunacao (PHIL)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Sornpichai Kratchingdaeng (THAI)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Irene Pacheco (COL)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Alex Ali Baba (GHA)	1	–	–
Medgoen Singsurat (THAI)	2	–	–
David Guerault (FRA)	3	4	1
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	4	–	–
Mike Trejo (USA)	5	6	3
Saen Sor Ploenchit (THAI)	6	–	–
Hiroshi Nakano (JAP)	7	–	–
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	8	9	4
Everardo Morales (MEX)	9	–	–
Damaen Kelly (GB)	10	–	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	–	1	–
Denkaosaen Kaowitch (THAI)	30	2	–
Panieng Okuda (THAI)	–	3	–
Eric Morel (USA)	–	5	–
Jose Lopez (VEN)	–	7	–
Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN)	–	8	–
Setsuo Kobayashi (JAP)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Pedro Pena (USA)	–	–	5
Zoltan Lunka (TUR)	19	–	6
Jose Lagos (ARG)	–	–	7
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	–	8
Jose Landin (USA)	–	–	9
Edicson Torres (PAN)	–	–	10

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yosam Choi (KOR)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Pichitnoi C. Siriwat (THAI)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Jorge Arce (MEX)	1	5	10
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	2	8	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	3	–	–
Hidenobu Honda (JAP)	4	2	–
Panieng Sasiprabha (THAI)	5	–	–
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	6	–	–
Pongsaklek Wonjongkam (THAI)	7	–	–
Nelson Dieppa (DR)	8	6	–
Takayuki Korogi (JAP)	9	–	–
Eric Ortiz (MEX)	10	–	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	–	1	–
Yura Dimas (MON)	–	3	–
Pongsaklek Nakornton (THAI)	–	4	–
Masibulele Makepula (SA)	–	7	–
Gilberto Keb Baas (MEX)	–	9	–
Jose Sanjuanelo (COL)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Ratanapol Sor Vorapin (THAI)	25	11	3
Everardo Morales (MEX)	–	–	4
Pongsaklek Sithkanongsak (THAI)	–	–	5
Alex Sanchez (PR)	–	–	6
Bebis Mendoza (COL)	–	–	7
Will Grigsby (USA)	–	12	8
Domingo Guillen (DR)	–	–	9

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jose Antonio Aguirre (MEX)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Noel Arumbulet (VEN)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Zolani Petelo (SA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Daniel Reyes (COL)	1	3	1
Erdene Chuluun (MON)	2	–	–
Wandee Chor Chareon (THAI)	3	–	–
Yasuo Tokimitsu (JAP)	4	–	9
Juan Keb Baas (MEX)	5	–	–
Makoto Suzuki (JAP)	6	10	–
Jaewon Kim (KOR)	7	–	–
Keitaro Hoshino (JAP)	8	–	–
Manny Melchor (PHIL)	9	–	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	10	12	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	–	1	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	2	–
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	4	–
Udomdet Porpaoin (THAI)	–	5	–
Hiroshi Matsumoto (JAP)	16	6	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	–	7	–
Satoru Abe (JAP)	17	8	–
Fasan Pongsawan (THAI)	–	9	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Rocky Palma (JAP)	–	–	3
Faisol Akbar (INDO)	–	–	4
Hiroshi Nakajima (JAP)	–	–	5
Rocky Lim (TWN)	–	–	6
Alberto Rossel (PERU)	–	–	7
Juan Herrera (COL)	–	–	8
Jose Ferreyra (ARG)	–	–	10

CLASSIC

From THE RING, April 1959

WORSHIPPED BUT NOT LOVED

Sugar Ray Robinson, Whose Golden Fists Have Won For Him Ring Immortality, But Whose Many Faceted Personality Has Not Made Him Loved

By Nat Fleischer

(Editor's Note: This is a condensed version)

"In Harlem, the folks say he's too proud. He holds his head up too high. He wants the folks to know him. I assure you that most of our people won't shed tears for him if he loses his title to Carmen Basilio. He has false vanity and carries it too far."

This was a reporter for the *Amsterdam News* speaking, a member of Sugar Ray Robinson's own race, who had been asked to discuss the world middleweight champion's personality.

Wherever one goes, the comments are invariably the same. None deny his greatness as a fighter. But there is something about Robinson, outside the ring, that falls far short of public acclaim and, in truth, at times almost turns into bitter hatred of the man who on five occasions has won the world middleweight championship.

"I'm looking after the interests of Ray Robinson. No fight manager will ever take care of my money nor will a benefit ever have to be staged for me. What people think about me is something I can't control. But what I do know is dictated by what I feel is right. I've never gone into a fight without keeping the public in mind."

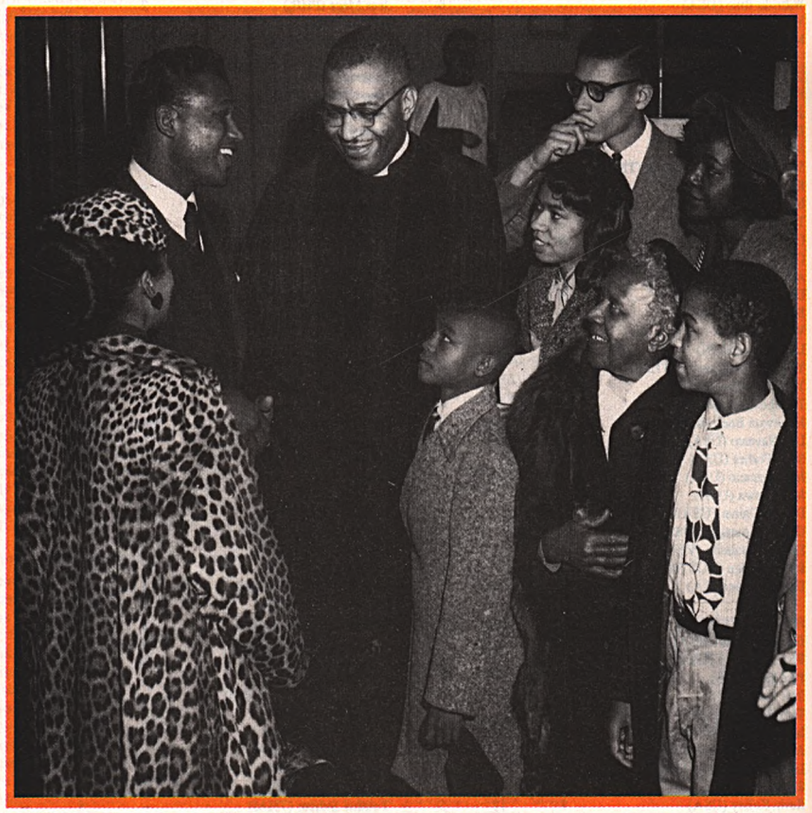
Those were the words of Sugar Ray Robinson at the time that he was being severely criticized during the long period of haggling over the terms for the second fight with Carmen Basilio in Chicago. That was his reply to press knocks he was receiving and the taunts of the fight fans.

What is wrong with Sugar Ray? Why is he so disliked by the press and fight public? Why are promoters hot after his services, yet dreading the day they must do business with him? Those are queries often asked by the public.

Over the years, the most controversial figure in boxing has been Sugar Ray Robinson. The 38-year-old master of ring artistry has been the stormy petrel of pugilism. Though adulation has been heaped on him for his ring performances, he has never been able to gain the love of those who have paid millions to see him in ring action.

What is there in the make-up of this great fighter that causes so many sports enthusiasts to refer to him in disparaging terms? Why doesn't Robinson receive the respect outside the ring that one with his glorious fistic record should expect? What makes Ray Robinson a complex man, a person with a dual personality, a sort of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde of the squared circle?

In America, there is no fighter who ever was so popular as Jack Dempsey. Even to this day, traffic halts when the old warrior stops for a chat. From a historic point of view, the ring accomplishments of Robinson are far superior to those of Dempsey, yet if Robinson stands on the street in the Harlem section of New York where his business enterprises are, few take notice.

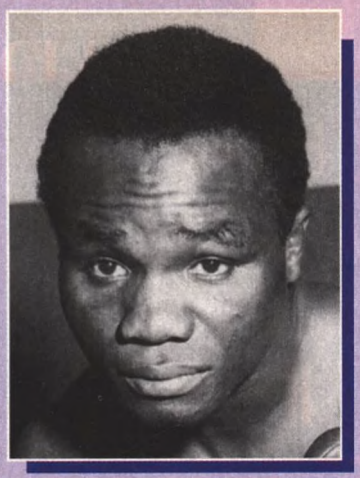


Though revered for his boxing exploits, Sugar Ray Robinson was often viewed with disdain by those in his Harlem community. The five-time middleweight champ is seen here with his wife, Edna Mae, being greeted by minister Joshua Williams at a church in Harlem.

Robinson was a puzzling part of the Harlem community. He was a successful businessman, with Ray Robinson Enterprises, yet he was never able to gain complete acceptance in the area, as Joe Louis and Beau Jack were.

Robinson steps into the ring to address the crowd at the Rocky Marciano-Archie Moore fight in 1955, wearing a beaming smile for the public. Robinson's own wife once said of him, "He's either gay and full of fun, often playing jokes on his company, or he's remote and unaware of anyone's presence."

THE RING RATINGS, April 1959



Hogan "Kid" Bassey

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Floyd Patterson, Brooklyn, NY
1. **Ingemar Johansson,** Sweden
2. **Nino Valdes,** Cuba
3. **Zora Folley,** Chandler, AZ
4. **Henry Cooper,** England
5. **Willie Pastrano,** New Orleans, LA
6. **Archie Moore,** San Diego, CA
7. **Eddie Machen,** Redding, CA
8. **Brian London,** England
9. **Sonny Liston,** Philadelphia, PA
10. **Mike DeJohn,** Syracuse, NY

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Archie Moore, San Diego, CA
1. **Harold Johnson,** Philadelphia, PA
2. **Tony Anthony,** New York, NY
3. **Yvon Durelle,** Canada
4. **Erich Schoppner,** Germany
5. **Sonny Ray,** Chicago, IL
6. **Mike Holt,** South Africa
7. **Johnny Halafihi,** Tonga
8. **Jesse Bowdry,** St. Louis, MO
9. **Dogomar Martinez,** Uruguay
10. **Jerry Luedee,** New Haven, CT

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Ray Robinson, New York, NY
1. **Carmen Basilio,** Syracuse, NY
2. **Gene Fullmer,** West Jordan, UT
3. **Spider Webb,** Chicago, IL
4. **Gustav Scholz,** Germany
5. **Holly Mims,** Washington, D.C.
6. **Bobby Boyd,** Chicago, IL
7. **Ralph (Tiger) Jones,** Yonkers, NY
8. **Joey Giardello,** Philadelphia, PA
9. **Rory Calhoun,** White Plains, NY
10. **Gene Armstrong,** Elizabeth, NJ

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Don Jordan, Los Angeles, CA
1. **Virgil Akins,** St. Louis, MO
2. **Sugar Hart,** Philadelphia, PA
3. **Isaac Logart,** Cuba
4. **Del Flanagan,** St. Paul, MN
5. **Ralph Dupas,** New Orleans, LA
6. **Gaspar Ortega,** Mexico
7. **Denny Moyer,** Portland, OR
8. **Vince Martinez,** Paterson, NJ
9. **Gil Turner,** Philadelphia, PA
10. **Gerald Gray,** Jamaica

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joe Brown, New Orleans, LA
1. **Kenny Lane,** Muskegon, MI
2. **Carlos Ortiz,** New York, NY
3. **Duilio Loi,** Italy
4. **Paolo Rosi,** New York, NY
5. **Dave Charnley,** England
6. **Johnny Busso,** New York, NY
7. **Willie Toweel,** South Africa
8. **Paul Armstead,** Los Angeles, CA
9. **Johnny Gonsalves,** Oakland, CA
10. **Bobby Scanlon,** San Francisco, CA

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Hogan (Kid) Bassey, Nigeria
1. **Davey Moore,** Springfield, OH
2. **Paul Jorgenson,** Port Arthur, TX
3. **Flash Elorde,** Philippines
4. **Gracieux Lamperti,** France
5. **Ricardo Gonzalez,** Argentina
6. **Ike Chestnut,** New York, NY
7. **Sergio Caprari,** Italy
8. **Victor (Sonny) Leon,** Venezuela
9. **Manolo Garcia,** Spain
10. **Percy Lewis,** Trinidad

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Alphonse Halimi, France
1. **Piero Rollo,** Italy
2. **Leo Espinosa,** Philippines
3. **Jose Lopez,** Mexico
4. **Joe Becerra,** Mexico
5. **Manuel Armenteros,** Cuba
6. **Mario D'Agata,** Italy
7. **Kiyoshi Miura,** Japan
8. **Boots Monroe,** Los Angeles, CA
9. **Ernesto Miranda,** Argentina
10. **Al Asuncion,** Philippines

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Pascual Perez, Argentina
1. **Sadao Yaoita,** Japan
2. **Ramon Arias,** Venezuela
3. **Young Martin,** Spain
4. **Pone Kingpetch,** Thailand
5. **Dommy Ursua,** Philippines
6. **Mimun Ben Ali,** Spain
7. **Mario DeLeon,** Mexico
8. **Joe Medel,** Mexico
9. **Carlos Miranda,** Argentina
10. **Horacio Accavallo,** Argentina

Why the difference?

Warmth vs. coolness; camaraderie vs. aloofness; frankness vs. slyness—those are the attributes that make the dividing line.

Ray Robinson's career has been provocative as well as controversial. Rated among the greatest pugilists of all-time, and pound-for-pound, the best all-around ringman since Benny Leonard was in his heyday, this master of ring science has been an outstanding fistic attraction who has rolled up a remarkable record in the ring, but a poor one in his public relations. Robinson knows that he has never been idolized by the fight fans, nor has he had a friendly press behind him. The crowds don't follow him as they have past masters of his profession. They gather only when he is headlined on a boxing program.

They will pay a big fee to see him in the roped square even in the last stages of his fighting career, but only because of his status as a boxer, one who can always be relied upon for thrills. Throughout his 18

Robinson had a reputation of being difficult when it came to business dealings. Sugar Ray could be stubborn before signing a contract, often giving fight promoters gray hairs during negotiations.

years of activity, he has received little more than grudging respect from those who were matched with him in the ring. But no matter what one thinks about him in his public relations, whether one likes or dislikes him, one cannot take from him the glory that is his as a master craftsman.

Because of his amazing record, he has been in a position to dictate terms. Throughout his career following the winning of his first title, he never hesitated to do so. He has always been ready to tell the world who is the boss, and the fight public has accepted him as such.

The case of Robinson is a puzzling one. As a businessman and a fighter, he has been most successful and takes great pride in his achievements. Some have referred to this pride as vanity, but he denies it. Yet despite his success, his charitable contributions to many worthy causes, among them that for the advancement of the colored race, he has never been able to lure to his side the friendship his race would be expected to give to a man of his stature. It is much unlike that which they showed Joe Louis and Beau Jack. Theirs has been a luke-warm feeling, no better than that of the average fight fan.

No fighter in my many years of association with the sport has been so unpopular despite the fact that he has gained a niche in the fistic hall of fame. It is strange—unbelievable, that so capable a ringman could be so irritating a person. Robinson is a showman. He can turn the warmth of his personality on and off, like a water spigot.

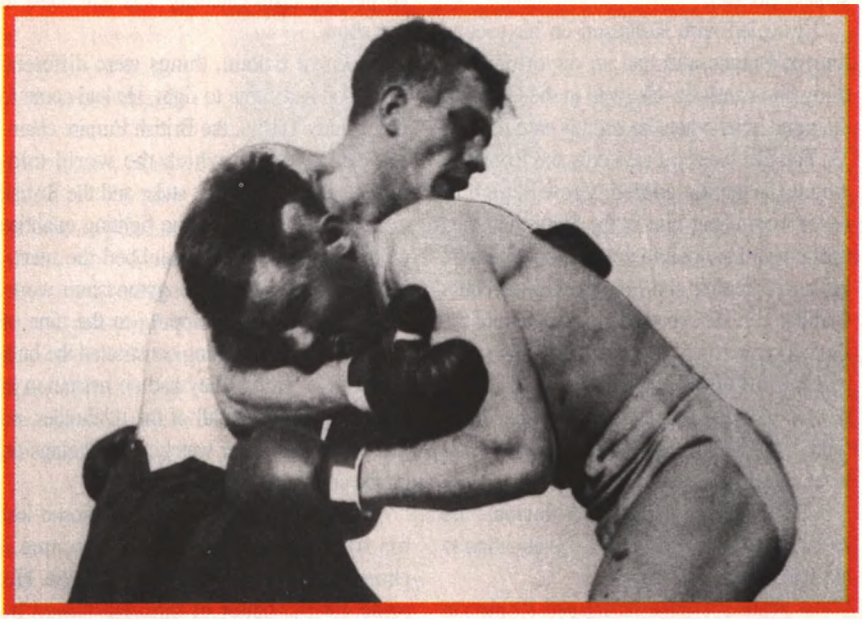
Evasiveness in interviews has often gotten him into hot water with the press. He presents a placid front when appearing before the public, but drops that when in the company of his intimates. Discussing this point with his wife when Robinson was training for his return match with Randy Turpin, she remarked:

"He's either gay and full of fun, often playing jokes on his company, or he's remote and unaware of anyone's presence."

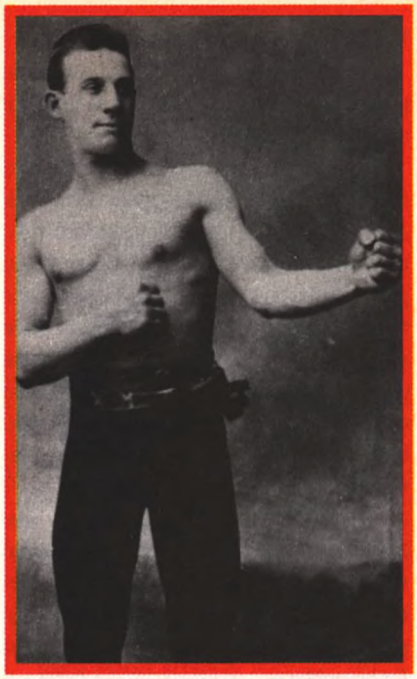
As a boxer, he has been the closest to fighting perfection of any other than Jack Johnson, Joe Gans, and Benny Leonard. Like tricky Leach Cross, who filled the arenas in pre-commission days with crowds who came to see him whipped, the gatherings were greatest in Robinson's case when there was a probability that his arrogance would be deflated and that his features might be scrambled. He's a ring genius and a bartering marvel who is awed by his own genius.

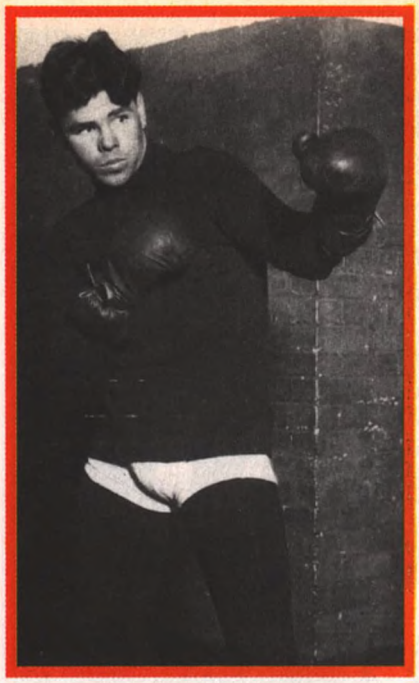
The true personality of this genius who has given headaches and heartaches to those who have done business with him is something difficult to analyze. He possesses a dual personality—one for his intimates, the other for his public.

At times one sees and admires the ever-smiling Sugar Ray; then the tables are turned and one sees the cold, calculating, exasperating, taunting individual whose tactics can be compared to those employed in a cold war. Those who have had business deals with him are never satisfied that all's well until he has fulfilled his obligations. He has turned promoters' hair gray, yet there isn't one who wouldn't accept his sufferings without a protest to have Robinson on a fight program. Even newspapermen on an assignment for an interview with him have been thwarted by this self-centered, ostentatious, egotis-



In ranking the all-time middleweight greats, Nat Fleischer, founder of The Ring *and author of the book* Fifty Years At The Ringside, *named Stanley Ketchel (left, vs. Billy Papke) as the best middleweight ever. Robinson was rated fifth all-time by Fleischer.*





Fleischer ranked Tommy Ryan (left) over Robinson because he felt the highly skilled Ryan had faced tougher opposition, and preferred Mickey Walker (right) because "The Toy Bulldog" would have hurt Robinson with his superior inside tactics.

tic, cocky ring marvel. They have no love for him. In fact, the majority dislike him, as do the fight fans.

Every bout in which he appeared with few exceptions—the fight with Joey Maxim and that with Charley Fusari in Jersey City—was thrilling. Ring science perfection in all his movements—they presented the picture fighter. A highly sensitive, smart, quick-witted boxer, he always mapped out what he wanted and he rarely failed to completely achieve his aim.

I traveled with Robinson on his second tour of France and had an opportunity to study him carefully. He lived in the Claridge, the same hotel where he had his entourage of 11. For five weeks, I saw only the Robinson whom the public adored. Crowds such as never were about him in the States, jammed traffic near the hotel to get a glimpse of him, his court jesters, and his dazzling lavender Cadillac car. He expected the adulation of the French crowds and he received it. It worked on his ego. It gave him the feeling of a king; he was the toast of Paris. He was dined and wined. He danced and sang. Wherever he went, he was greeted by mobs.

"So different from in America," he remarked to me when I called his attention to the scintillating change.

In France, I saw a changed Robinson from the one we know so well in the U.S. He was an enigma, a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde personality, a showman, who with his merry-makers, his cordial handshaking accompanied by a smile and a few words in French, enabled him to hold public attention through his vanity. Added to that was the fun-making of little Jimmy Karoubi, hired by Robinson to keep him in good humor, and the quips of barber Roger Simon and trainer Pee-Wee Beale that kept the crowds in a spirit of merriment—all of which enabled him to receive the grand adulation he had expected. It was all put on; little sincerity was exhibited in that show.

In Great Britain, things were different. Robinson had come to fight. He had come to face Randy Turpin, the British Empire champion in a bout in which the world middleweight crown was at stake and the British were interested only in the fighting qualities of the champion. They snubbed the merriment. They ridiculed the gymnasium workouts in which rope skipping to the tune of music and hand clapping constituted the bulk of the days' work. They had no hesitation in predicting the downfall of the titleholder, no more than I did after watching the goings-on on the continent.

The predictions came true. Robinson lost his title and overnight again became a changed man. He was proud of the title. His pride got the better of him. He vowed he would regain the crown, and history tells us how well he accomplished the feat. One of the British scribes, interviewing him in his Windsor training camp, a stone's throw from Queen Elizabeth's Windsor Castle, asked if Robinson cared to answer a critic who had written that cockiness would cost Sugar Ray his crown.

"If by cockiness he means my confidence, then I agree with him," said Robinson. "I'm not in the least cocky. Perhaps it is my firm belief in myself, in the good Lord who guides me, that causes many writers to refer to me in that vein. I'm a good, solid Christian who has a strong faith in himself and believes thoroughly in God, whose hand has guided me to success both in boxing and in business. If that faith in oneself constitutes cockiness, then that writer's statement is a correct one."

In his room in London, I asked him if he ever gave a thought to the criticism of sportswriters.

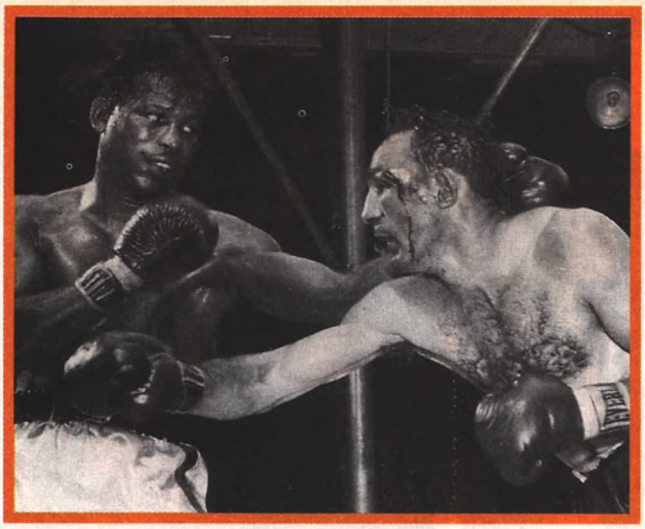
"I'm as sensitive as the next one," he replied. "I have feelings and often the unfair criticism irks me, but I don't show it. I simply feel it. I have a mind of my own and I do what I think best. No amount of criticism would force me, for example, to go through with a fight if I thought that my physical state demanded a postponement. I aim to win and if I'm not in condition, why gamble on a defeat?"

That philosophy caused him to postpone many contests, a costly procedure for promoters whose prefight expenses ran high. He was notorious as a run-out artist during his heyday. Discussing that, Robinson declared that whenever he insisted on a postponement for which he was severely criticized by the press, he had ample reason for his action.

"It was always for the best interests of the sport and for myself. No promoter or newspaperman could get me to go through with a match unless I knew I was fit to give my best. For that, you reporters have knocked me."

What kind of a guy is Robinson really? I've often been asked that in television and radio interviews and on my visits to servicemen's camps.

I like him despite the things I've pointed out that must go against him. He professes humility, which many believe is overstressed and often put on. Whenever interviewed, he takes great pains to stress his belief in God, to whom he gives praise for the success he has attained. Often this has been interpreted as an act, but his intimates,



No one knew what was in Robinson's future. With the future Hall of Famer entering the twilight of his career, many speculated he would fight Carmen Basilio again (pictured beating Sugar Ray in 1957) or possibly embark on another theatrical venture.

strongly supported by his charming wife, Edna, declare his words are those of a most sincere believer in the gifts of The Almighty.

As head of Ray Robinson Enterprises, which handles his operations in real estate, hair-cutting establishments for men and women, his wife's lingerie shop, Robinson's restaurant, his Quality Cleaners, and his tavern, he is a keen businessman. When he found upon his return from Europe that some of his most trusted hired help had gypped him, he cleaned house and took over and brought a losing venture back into a growing, paying business.

Almost everything he earns in the pugilistic field, he puts into his business enterprises.

When my book, *Fifty Years At The Ringside*, appeared, in this autobiography I named the 10 outstanding fighters of my time in all divisions. In the middleweight sector I name Robinson number five, behind Stanley Ketchel, Tommy Ryan, Harry Greb, Mickey Walker—in that order. Why?

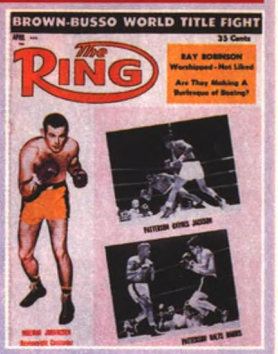
There is scarcely an old timer who would give Robinson a chance against Stanley Ketchel, who even as a middleweight tore apart middleweights and light heavyweights who far surpass anyone in the field today other than the champion.

As for Tommy Ryan, he was heralded by the best of the American reporters as the most scientific middleweight of his period. He, like Ketchel, Greb, and Walker, had to face opposition, which we no longer have. Ryan was as pretty a boxer as ever graced the roped square—a chess player of the ring, full of strategy, sudden and forceful in his attack. He was often referred to as a superman.

It is my belief that Robinson would never have stood up before the battering body attack of Mickey Walker. Robinson had height and reach on him and cleverness and speed, but he is not an inside fighter as was Walker. As for Greb, his windmill attack wouldn't have given Robinson a chance to make use of his extreme cleverness.

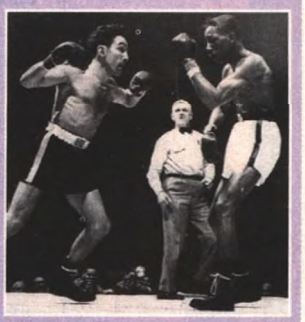
What about the future? Robinson has changed his mind so often on what he has mapped out that we'll leave that for him to answer. A bout for the light heavyweight crown, against Archie Moore, seems a probability. And another theatrical venture appears to be a certainty. ■

THE RING, April 1959



The Cover: A showdown was looming between Sweden's Ingemar Johansson and heavyweight champ Floyd Patterson. Johansson had a big right hand and an abundance of confidence. Patterson, though respected, lacked public support at the time because of the poor caliber of his opponents.

A New Power Broker: Young newcomer Bill Rosensohn was making a name for himself in promoting circles. He earned high marks by landing the Johansson-Patterson showdown in only his second attempt at boxing promotion. Rosensohn's background was in closed-circuit television.



All Pepped Out: Former featherweight champion Willie Pep, pictured in the second of his four wars with Sandy Saddler, called it quits at 36 years old. "The Will-O-The-Wisp," known for his uncanny boxing skills, decided to retire (for the time being, anyway) after suffering consecutive losses for the first time in his career.

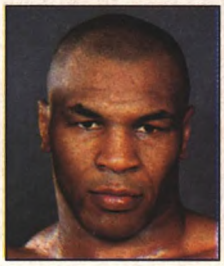
Injuries And Fate: Rocky Marciano is one of a handful of champions explored in this story who overcame injuries to win major fights. Marciano suffered a severely cut nose in his second fight with Ezzard Charles, yet came back to belt out Charles in the eighth round.

Fighter Of The Month: Lightweight champion Joe Brown was finally garnering some attention in his 14th year as a pro. He scored a 15-round decision over the game Johnny Busso in his sixth title defense, avenging an earlier non-title points loss to Busso.

LOOKING AHEAD

By Eric Raskin

TYSON-GOLOTA: RULES WERE MADE TO BE BROKEN



Tyson-Golota: Anything can happen

Unpredictability is what makes the sports world go 'round. The shocking upsets, the bizarre twists of fate, the unlikely heroes stealing the spotlight—these are the things we remember long after we've forgotten who won the Cy Young Award or who was the runner-up at Wimbledon.

In boxing, especially, unpredictability is king. You don't have to be a hardcore fight fan to remember "The Rumble In The Jungle," **Buster Douglas**, or Fan Man. And you don't have to be a hardcore fight fan to know the names **Mike Tyson** and **Andrew Golota**. They are the poster boys for unpredictability, so, predictably, all indications are that the heavyweight division's two baddest bad boys will be getting it on in October in possibly the biggest non-title fight in the history of pay-per-view television.

Though Showtime/SET boss **Jay Larkin** could not confirm the fight as a done deal as we went to press, he said that logic dictated that Tyson, the convicted rapist/ear-biter/attempted armbreaker/wannabe child-eater, was on a collision course to meet Golota, the low-blow thrower/anxiety-attack victim/shoulder-biter/habitual quitter, on either October 14 or October 20. Larkin said the fight is headed somewhere in the U.S., possibly even to Las Vegas, the town that last year told Tyson to take his act elsewhere, but may conveniently soften their stance for a truly huge fight—which is exactly what Tyson-Golota promises to be.

"Tyson-Golota would be an enormous event," Larkin said in mid-August. "Based on the last two Tyson fights, Tyson needs to make a dramatic step up in the level of the event, and Golota makes a lot of sense right now. The Tyson camp perceives Golota as not being the most difficult opponent for him, but Andrew is a guy who has all the physical gifts to be the heavyweight champion of the world. Andrew Golota is the guy who retired **Riddick Bowe**, who was supposed to be the most complete heavyweight since **Larry Holmes**. Golota beat the crap out of him twice. He also was knocking **Michael Grant** around the ring like a kitten until he went nuts in the clinch rounds.

"It's definitely a fight in which all hell could break loose. They might need three psychiatrists sitting ringside, not three judges. And for that reason, it's a fight that would have the potential to catch the curiosity of the general public. But our intent is to sell it as a serious fight. We believe it's a very competitive event between two of the top heavyweights in the world."

It's very easy for a cynic to say this fight won't be worth his pay-per-view money. After all, based on what Tyson did to **Lou Savarese**, and the way Golota folded against **Lennox Lewis**, a quickie blowout is possible. So is a quickie disqualification for either man. But despite those possibilities, can you really say this a fight you're willing to miss? The World Series may be known as the fall classic, but Tyson-Golota could easily turn out to be this October's most memorable sporting event.

LISTEN UP

Spadafora: Back on KO Nation

If Tyson-Golota does come off, there's a strong possibility that Tyson's buddy **Zab Judah** will appear on the undercard, perhaps unifying two-thirds of the junior welter title with **Sharmba Mitchell** ... A working date of January 20, 2001, is in place for the **Sugar Shane Mosley-Oscar De La Hoya** rematch, but there could be a major conflict: Team Tyson is reportedly negotiating to have "Iron Mike" fight in Malaysia the same day ... HBO's **Seth Abraham** revealed in mid-August the long-range plan for WBA 154-pound champ **Felix Trinidad**. If he survives his proposed December 2 meeting with **Fernando Vargas**, he'll immediately move up to middleweight, fight two of the champions there, and, if all goes well, face **Roy Jones** toward the end of 2001 at roughly 170 pounds ... **Paul Spadafora's** mandatory defense of the IBF lightweight title against Canadian **Billy Irwin** looks like it's headed for HBO's *KO Nation* on December 16 ... The frustratingly inactive **Bernard Hopkins** will make just his sixth appearance in the last three years when he defends the IBF middleweight title on a December 1 HBO *Boxing After Dark* show. The most likely opponent is **Antwun Echols**, whom Hopkins beat in an outstanding 12-round bout last December.

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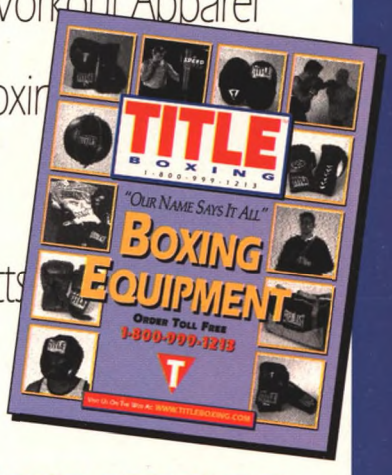

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